

CRIME: ITS INVESTIGATION & DETECTION.

A PAMPHLET INTENDED

FOR

SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE,

BY

P. SANYASAYYA NAIDU,

1st Class Inspector, Madras Police.

SECOND EDITION.

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DEDICATED

BY PERMISSION

TO

W. O. HORNE, Esq., I.C.S.,

INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE, MADRAS,

WITH THE HUMBLE RESPECTS OF THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE rapid sale of the book within a few months of its publication has induced me to bring out a new edition, thoroughly revised. To make the book more useful and instructive to those for whom it is intended, I have added several interesting cases and new chapters on subjects not treated of in the first edition.

I take this opportunity of publicly thanking the Editors of Newspapers, the Officers of the Police and other Departments and other gentlemen for their favourable opinion of the book and valuable suggestions for its improvement.

For the excellent get-up and printing of the book, I am greatly indebted to Messrs. Higginbotham & Co., Madras.

If my humble efforts to instruct the junior Officers of the Department, to which

I have the honor to belong, should succeed in rousing in them a feeling of love for their profession, my labours would not be in vain. I wish them every success in their career.

P. SANYASAYYA.

VIZAGAPATAM,
15th July, 1907.

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SOME OPINIONS ON THE WORK.

The Honourable Mr. M. HAMMICK, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government, Madras :—

‘ I am in receipt of your book on ‘ Crime, its investigation and detection.’ I hope it will prove useful to young Police Officers.”

D. W. G. COWIE, Esq., I.C.S., Inspector-General of Police, Madras :—“ I write a line to thank you for kindly sending me a copy of your ‘ Crime, its investigation and detection.’ I have read it with much interest.”

VERNOR A. BRODIE, Esq., I.C.S., District Judge :
—“ Please accept my best thanks for sending me a copy of your small book which I have found very interesting reading. Your method of supplementing precept and theory with numerous concrete examples of their application has the advantage of making the book both more readable and more instructive for beginners. It cannot but prove of the greatest use to any intelligent young officer who desires to get on in the Department by doing his duty honestly and efficiently.”

R. H. CAMPBELL, Esq., I.C.S., District Magistrate :
—“ I have read your Pamphlet with great interest and feel sure that it will prove of real use to Police Officers in investigating Crime.”

H. D. ROBERTSON, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Southern Range:—"I have to acknowledge your little treatise which should prove a useful help to young Police Officers."

C. D. J. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Northern Range, Waltair:—"I have read the book with the greatest interest—more especially so, as you began your career as a Police Officer under me and most of the cases to which you allude occurred when you were serving directly under me. Your Pamphlet should be of great assistance to young Sub-Inspectors and others who are about to enter the Department. I wish you all the success and appreciation it so thoroughly deserves."

C. G. W. CLOGSTOUN, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range, Vellore:—"I have read your Pamphlet with much interest. *

* * * I shall be glad to recommend it to the Vellore School students."

F. ARMITAGE, Esq., Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Madras:—"I think that it is very interesting and suggestive and I am sure that it will be useful to Sub-Inspectors."

F. B. M. CARDOZO, Esq., Superintendent of Police:—"* * I have read it with great interest and consider it a valuable help to young Police Officers. The hints about bad characters and wandering gangs

are particularly valuable and should be of great assistance to any Police Officer investigating organized gang crime. I wish you and your book every success."

C. B. N. PELLY, Esq., B.A., Superintendent of Police:—"I have read with much interest your book. It is well written and should prove of great assistance to young Police Officers for whom it is specially intended."

T. STEVENSON, Esq., Principal, Police Provincial Training School, Vellore:—"I am very glad you have had printed the very excellent lecture you gave at the school in August '05. It should prove most useful to Sub-Inspectors and I shall strongly advise those here to get a copy of it. Wishing you every success in the circulation of your work."

H. E. WILLIAMS, Esq., Assistant Superintendent of Police:—"I have just read with much interest and pleasure your little book and can now heartily congratulate you on the result of your work. It ought to prove invaluable in firing the imagination of the budding Police Officer and impressing on him the utmost necessity for minute and accurate observation."

C. ATKINSON, Esq., Assistant Superintendent of Police:—"I have read with much pleasure your little book. It should be a guiding star to all Sub-Inspectors. In thanking you for the copy I received

from you, I must add my wish for its successful reception and hope that you may have to print several editions."

M.R.Ry. K. S. SREENIVASACHARY AVERGAL, M.A., B.L., Deputy Collector and Magistrate:—"The chapters on Village Reports, Inquests and Bad characters, are very instructive and bound to be of considerable use to the new class of Sub-Inspectors for whom you intended this book. You have made it as interesting as any detective story."

M.R.Ry. V. KRISHNASWAMY IYER AVERGAL, B.A., B.L., High Court Vakil, Madras:—"I appreciate such work very much. I feel sure your book will supply a much felt want. I have read through a great part of it and I am glad to say I find it interesting. Your book should be one of the text-books for Police Officers under probation."

W. GARTH, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Calcutta High Court:—"I have read the Pamphlet with very great interest. It is well written, and contains many useful hints which should be of great assistance to junior Police Officers in the proper execution of their duties."

Dewan Bahadoor B. NARAYANAMOORTHY PANTULU GARU, Retired Deputy Collector and Magistrate:—"I have carefully gone through the Pamphlet and found it to be an interesting record of your experiences as an energetic Police Officer of considerable

tact. It will, I am sure, serve as a useful guide to those for whom it is intended. The arrangement and get-up are excellent and the Pamphlet reflects much credit on you."

The Hon'ble Mr. B. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA, B.A., B.L., High Court Vakil :—The narrative of your experiences, written in a simple and clear style, shows what a passionate love for one's profession can achieve, and how a bold and intelligent departure from the traditional methods in vogue in the detection of crime would lead to pleasant and agreeable surprises and eminently satisfactory results."

M.R.Ry. P. T. SREENIVASA IYENGAR, M.A., L.T., F.M.U. :—"Though, primarily intended for Police Officers, it contains hints which any layman might well use in assisting the Police to help in their investigation. Besides, it contains material for half a dozen detective stories if the talent of this country will turn to that kind of composition."

'MADRAS MAIL,' dated 28-3-07.

"Mr. Sanyasayya Naidu has treated his subject in a practical and suggestive manner illustrating the general principles he lays down by references to some of the cases he has himself investigated. Incidentally he makes some sensible and pertinent remarks on the relations between Judicial and Police authority. The book should certainly prove useful

to Sub-Inspectors of Police, for whom it is specially designed."

'EAST COAST NEWS,' dated 11-4-07.

"It cannot but prove useful to the young men who have entered or who are about to enter the Police Department, for it gives practical hints to those engaged in the detection of crimes. Almost every Chapter contains very interesting information; that on "Robberies and Dacoities" is full of thrilling incidents and if we had not known that they were actual events in the Police-life of the writer, we would have looked upon the book as a novel of detective stories."

'MADRAS STANDARD,' dated 18-4-07.

It is full of interesting facts and details—of how individual cases which at first sight had seemed hopelessly difficult had been unravelled by patient and intelligent working. It contains a lot of practical information which does not claim to be of the nature of infallible generalisations, but is left in the hands of the appreciative reader, for him to draw his own conclusions.

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Mr. Sanyasayya Naidu, we are glad to note, combines a thorough knowledge of the law connected with the subject of "Investigation" and "Detection," with the result of his varied and mature experience, and we are of opinion that a study of the book will be of great benefit to *all Police*

Officers and even to Magistrates and Criminal Lawyers as well."

'THE INDIAN PATRIOT,' dated 25-4-07.

"The book gives apart from some interesting experiences of the author, sound advice upon certain important points like 'village reports,' 'recovery of stolen property' which ought to be of great use to Magistrates and Village Magistrates. The writer has here and there stepped into the relations between the Police and the Judicial authorities which afford very instructive reading. The Sub-Inspectors who are now being trained at the Vellore Training School would find in it a readable narration of interesting experiences of one of those to whose position and responsibility they could look toward one day to rise."

'THE HINDU,' dated 26-4-1907.

The author is an experienced Police official and the suggestions he has offered in the book ought to be of great interest and value to junior men in the service. Police Sub-Inspectors will find it of much help and usefulness to them in investigating crime. The Pamphlet is in the nature of practical advice given by one of long service and intimate acquaintance with the criminal classes of the Presidency and in the course of his own experience, the author has drawn certain general principles which he illustrates with incidents that have come under his

observation. The Pamphlet is as much interesting as a sensational novel and we have no doubt that Police Sub-Inspectors for whom it is specially intended, will profit by it.

‘THE CEYLON STANDARD,’ dated 26-4-07.

“We cordially recommend its careful study to all whose avocations require an intimate acquaintance with questions such as the volume is an attempt to grapple with.”

‘THE INDIAN POLICE NEWS’ for April 07.

“ * * It is an excellent address teeming with invaluable hints and advice. * * The brochure, full of wisdom mellowed by experience deserves to be in the hands of every Sub-Inspector who aspires to leave a good record of his work behind.”

INTRODUCTION.

AGREEABLY to the practice then in vogue, I had the honor of being selected to deliver the annual address to the pupils of the Police Training School at Vellore in August, 1905, the subject being—"Crime, its investigation and detection." The main object of these annual addresses by the senior Inspectors of the Department in the mofussil was to place before the younger generation their experiences during their long service ranging probably over wide areas, so that they might be benefited and enlightened by them. Though there was hardly any leisure left for me to prepare my lecture adequately for the benefit of my junior friends, yet nothing was spared to utilize, to the fullest advantage, every moment of my time in the *interim*. Such cases as could be recalled to my memory were collected and collated, and with a view to facilitate my labours, complete notes were made under the different headings to which I purposed to confine my address. In fact, almost the whole of the manuscript of my address was ready before I stood before those

for whom my lecture was intended and I was thus better equipped for my pleasant duty than I would otherwise have been. On the conclusion of my lecture, it was suggested to me by some of my friends and well-wishers that I would do well to have the address printed and published for the benefit of my brother and junior officers in the department, and though I was loth to do so all this time. yet I have now decided to publish it in book form so that the hints and suggestions contained therein may prove useful to the Sub-Inspectors in their future career.

VIZAGAPATAM,

March, 1907. }



CHAPTER I.

INVESTIGATION & DETECTION.

THE subject of my lecture is "Crime, its investigation and detection." This subject is so important and comprehensive that it would be almost hopeless to do full justice even if one devoted a lifetime to it. A large mass of literature bearing on the *theory* of the subject is available in public print ; but what is needed by my younger friends is its practical side, *viz.*, how one is to go about the investigation of crimes with a view to arrive at their detection. The hints and clues that can be gathered and laid down as a guide from the varied and dangerous experiences of the senior Officers of the Department, are the best help to the young officer, and what I purpose doing therefore in the course of my address is to lay before my hearers my experiences and the lines on which I worked in individual cases which, in a majority of them, were not disappointing. Apart

from the advantages from such hints to general peace and safety to men and property, it goes without saying, that the expertness and promptitude with which a Police officer completes the investigation and detection of a crime and the *modus operandi* adopted by him in unravelling the mysteries and ramifications of the same, are the factors which mainly contribute to his success in the Department. I shall first deal with *Investigation*.

INVESTIGATION includes all the proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code for the collection of evidence conducted by a Police officer. The information to the Police and their powers to investigate are dealt with in Chapter XIV. of the Criminal Procedure Code, which should be carefully studied and, all that a Police officer is authorised to do under the Criminal Procedure Code, should be rigidly adhered to but not deviated from.

DETECTION consists in bringing to light any act, thing or person, that does exist, but is unknown, and its main art may be

said to consist of piecing together as one might piece together the various parts of geometrical puzzle and constructing a rational theory of a crime.

Under the Police orders no offence is said to have been detected unless a competent tribunal has awarded punishment to one or more of the offenders. A case in which conviction has been obtained before a subordinate tribunal will appear as undetected if the sentence be reversed on appeal. Therefore, it is not enough merely to unravel a mystery, but it is highly necessary to collect all available evidence and place it before a Magistrate in such a manner as to compel him to arrive at but one conclusion—the guilt of the culprit in question.

The investigation and detection of crime are so closely allied that it is impossible to separate them or to draw any line between the two, the one being but a corollary of the other. The greater is the trouble taken to investigate a crime, the easier it is to detect it and bring it home to the offenders. It should however be

borne in mind that careful and exhaustive investigation leads to success in the detection of crimes.

In investigating a case, the following points should form the guiding principles :—

1. Promptitude in visiting the scene of the crime ;
2. A very close and careful inspection of the locality ;
3. Collection of all available information without loss of time.

When the investigation is closed on the above lines, the detection proper begins and this should be taken in hand on the lines suggested below :—

- (a) The mind should be kept open as to the perpetrator or perpetrators of the crime till some definite conclusion is arrived at ;
- (b) No suppositions of any kind which are not supported by facts elicited during your investigation should be indulged in ;
- (c) Steady and unwearied perseverance in the task.

CHAPTER II.

VILLAGE REPORTS.

As a rule, reports of crimes are received from village heads who are bound to report certain crimes under Section 45, Criminal Procedure Code. Very often, it will be found that the village heads are incompetent to do their duty efficiently, as some, if not most, of them are illiterate and not intelligent enough for their work. An ignorant village head, otherwise called Village Magistrate, will sometimes draw up a foolish report which will spoil an important case; while an intelligent Village Magistrate (a rare commodity) will either conceal certain facts or add something that never occurred, to suit his own purposes. But the successful investigation of a case rests wholly upon these first information reports which are the basis of all criminal cases. As more is learnt by failures than by successes, an instance may be quoted where owing to a defective village report a case, though supported by facts, fell through. In December 1904, a

man was brutally murdered in Siddhasweram village, not far from Vizagapatam, and his body was thrown into his own well. There were blood marks near the scene of crime. The Village Magistrate, to whom the said murder was reported by the wife and children of the deceased, sent in the following report :—

“Pitta Petha Appayya of Siddhasweram was found dead in the well in his field some time during last night. Appayya's wife and his sons informed me. I and all the people of the village went to the well and examined it with a bamboo. The body was found.”

There was nothing in the above report to indicate that there was any suspicion of foul play attached to the death. The Police officer who received the same treated it as an ordinary case of death and hence delayed going to the spot. When at length the Police officer visited the scene, he found to his surprise many wounds on the corpse and blood marks near the scene of the crime. Some

evidence was forthcoming as to the perpetrators of the crime. The Village Magistrate, for reasons best known to himself, omitted to mention all these facts in his first report. When the case went to the Sessions Court, all the evidence collected by the Police subsequent to the submission of the village report was rejected on the ground that the Village Magistrate would have reported those facts if such evidence was forthcoming when writing his first report. There are many other cases in which badly worded village reports were the cause of the discharge of dangerous culprits, and it would only be waste of valuable time to refer to them in detail.

Even the delays in submitting these village reports by the village heads have proved detrimental in some important cases. Village Magistrates generally delay sending village reports either through incompetency or ignorance. Such delays are no fault of the Police officer receiving them, though the Judges have drawn impressions unfavourable to the Police (for

which the Department is in no way responsible) and thrown out many an important case. In Vizagapatam Sessions case No. V of 1895, a boy of 14 years was charged with having thrown into a well and drowned his cousin's daughter, a girl 14 years old. The child left her house at about 11 A.M., 17th February, in company with the accused. The accused returned home without the girl. When he was questioned at sunset as to what had become of the girl, he gave contradictory stories. Foul play was suspected, and a girdle of the missing girl was found concealed in his cloth. He then confessed that he had drowned the girl after taking the girdle. All this was related at sunset in the presence of five witnesses, including the Village Magistrate and Kurnam. The Village Magistrate immediately after wrote a report but this did not reach the station till 6-30 A.M., the following day. The Station House Officer commenced his investigation and closed the case on that day. The body was found in the well

shown by the accused. The Judge who tried the case did not believe the evidence of the above witnesses that the girdle was found in the possession of the accused and that the accused had made a confession before the arrival of the Police. The Judge said—"The Police Station is only 4 miles off. As the property was found and a murder confessed at about sunset, it is clear that the Police ought to have received intelligence that night at about 7 or 8 o'clock, and the Magistrate (16 miles off) ought to have heard of the occurrence the first thing in the morning. Now under these circumstances, it seems possible that the girdle was not discovered until the Police came, and that it has been falsely made to appear that the girdle was found before the Police came." What was the fate of the case can be easily surmised. The accused was discharged and the Station House Officer nearly got into trouble owing to no fault of his.

It is needless to give more instances. All that is necessary is to impress upon your minds the importance that is attach-

ed to village reports and their prompt transmission by Village Magistrates. Whenever it is found that the village reports are not received in time, or that they are not properly drawn up, immediate action should be taken to bring to notice the negligence of the Village Magistrates, so that the trying tribunal may not have the impression that the Police concocted any evidence after the report had been received. So much importance is attached to these reports that, if possible, nothing should be spared to teach Village Magistrates how to frame a report whenever a crime is committed within their jurisdiction. Kind treatment will induce all Village Magistrates to co-operate with us, and it is the best source from which the best possible information could be secured about crimes. They will co-operate with us in all our attempts to detect the offenders. It is important, nay, imperative to explain to them that they hold a responsible position and that we are entitled to their fullest co-operation and without this it will be hopeless to detect and prevent crime.

CHAPTER III.

THEFTS.

THE ordinary work of a Police Officer in charge of a Police Station is the detection of offences against property. Prompt action and intelligent investigation will produce good results. Thefts are generally committed by ordinary thieves and pick-pockets. These are detectable if the investigating officer takes pains and knows the bad characters well. A fairly large number of thefts which the Police Officer in charge of a Station is required to investigate are committed by non-professional thieves and they can be easily detected owing to the readiness on their part to dispose of the stolen property soon after the commission of the crime. It is for their immediate wants that these crimes are generally committed by such people. We can with good reason say that the majority of such thefts are committed by servants who are occasionally tempted to live at the expense of their masters.

In these cases, the victims of thefts exhaust their skill in detecting them before they seek Police help. By the time this is done, the culprits would have ample opportunities of destroying all traces of crime, with the result that when the Police step in, there remains little scope of detecting the culprits. In some cases the culprits conceal the stolen property on the premises of their masters till the crime is forgotten. In all cases where servants are suspected, the investigating officer would do well if he refrains from openly accusing them of committing the crime. The most probable thief should be the last one to be questioned. It is only when the culprit is least suspected, that he makes any attempt to dispose of the stolen property. If he does not do so till the crime is forgotten, there is not much chance of detecting the case.

I remember a case which I personally investigated when I was but a few months in service. A Captain of a Regiment and his lady were the guests of the Bank Agent

of Bimlipatam. The hand-bag containing some money and valuable papers belonging to the lady-guest was stolen from the bungalow. I suspected the servants of being concerned in the crime. The "chokra" was the most probable thief. I did not tax any of the servants of the gentleman with the offence but I pretended that it was committed by some of the coolies who had meddled with the *saman*. I kept a watch over the "chokra" of the gentleman. He was drinking heavily in the grog shop the very evening evidently with the money he had found in the hand-bag. I approached him in his drunken state and taxed him with the offence. He admitted his guilt. He took me to his master's house, obtained the keys from him and opening his chest of drawers produced the hand-bag from beneath the clothing where he had concealed it. This first opened my eyes to the fact that petty thieves are only too eager to make use of the stolen articles and do not wait till the crime is forgotten.

If the investigating officer finds that the stolen property is concealed somewhere on the premises of his master, it would be wise if he throws a suggestion that the property is not lost but mislaid somewhere. This generally acts on the mind of the inexperienced culprit. He takes this hint and sometimes changes his mind and throws away the property in some corner of the house where some one discovers it. But in such cases the culprit escapes detection unless a careful watch over his movements is kept and the culprit is caught when throwing away the property. I have detected several cases of this sort.

I shall quote an interesting case of this kind which occurred in 1895 in Vizianagram. A student reading in the B. A. class turned up one evening at the Police Station and reported to me that his box was broken open the previous night and his property consisting of a watch, etc., was stolen. He kept the box in an upper room in a spacious house. He was living

with his wife and a cousin, the son of a high official in Cocanada who was also reading in the same college as the complainant. I obtained from him the particulars of the crime and it appeared to me that the crime was committed by some one in the house; when I threw a suggestion to that effect, he flew into a rage and sarcastically remarked that I wanted to evade registration of the crime by making such suggestions. He at once wrote out a complaint and handed it over to me. He also offered a reward for the recovery of the property. I hastened to the spot and investigated the case. The house which the complainant was occupying was a very spacious one owned by a Vakil. My investigation convinced me that my view was a correct one. I interviewed the owner of the house and laid before him my views as he was a Vakil. He would not fall in with me and even resented my theory, but he raised no objection to allow a Policeman in plain clothes to remain in the house to watch

the movements of its inmates. Having posted a sharp Head Constable in a convenient spot in the house, I left the place. Before leaving, I said in the hearing of all the people of the house that the property in question would be found somewhere in the house on the morrow and that it might not have been really stolen. I said so with the intention of suggesting to the thief that he should restore the property. My suggestion luckily had its desired effect. At about 7 o'clock the same evening the Head Constable whom I kept in the house heard the complainant's wife cry out that there was some one concealed in the loft of the kitchen. The Head Constable ran to the spot at once and found a ladder placed against the loft. He got up the ladder into the loft and found the complainant's cousin, a lad of 16 years, with the stolen property under his arm. He had stolen the property on the previous night and concealed it in the loft of the kitchen. Being an inexperienced thief my sugges-

tion acted on his mind and he wanted to throw away the stolen property in some corner of the house during the night. With this object in view he got up the loft and was surprised by the complainant's wife who least suspected that the culprit was but her own relation. When he was placed before the Magistrate on a charge of house-breaking and theft, the Vakil who was engaged by the complainant himself to defend him advised him to plead innocence but the boy declined to do so. The Magistrate finding the accused penitent let him off with a lenient punishment.

It is only by careful study of the ways of such inexperienced thieves that you can gain knowledge gradually which will assist you in grappling with big cases committed by professional thieves. In all cases committed by professional thieves the line of investigation should be quite different. The very first thing you must ascertain is whether there is likely to be any one in the house who could have given information or assistance to the culprits to facili-

tate the commission of the crime. It should be carefully ascertained if any of the servants were bad characters that had taken service under a cloak of honesty. The next important step is to direct your attention to local receivers of stolen property. If once the property is safely lodged in the hands of the receivers, there will be little chance of recovering it. The work of the Police in these cases is judged, not by the percentage of detection but by the percentage of property recovered. In many cases where a small proportion only of the missing property is recovered, it leads one to the impression that the major portion of it has gone into the hands of the Police. It is much to be regretted that owing to the nature of the work the department has to do, it is subject to such unwarranted and adverse criticism from the public. So long as the officers are straightforward and honest, they should not heed such remarks, but should plod on with a cheerful heart, and they are sure, in the long run, to secure the confidence

of the public. To recover the stolen property from culprits all available intelligence, pluck and tactics should be brought to play, but no objectionable practices should be resorted to, for these have ruined many a good officer. I shall now quote an incident during my first few months' service, in which success was attained by mere tactics.

In the year 1893, a Rangoon firm wired to all the Coromandel seaports

Rangoon Theft Case. that a servant of theirs, a North India man (whose description was vaguely given), had stolen property worth Rs. 3,600 (consisting of two diamond ear-rings, one diamond ring, and cash and currency notes of the value of Rs. 600) and absconded. I was in charge of Bimlipatam at the time. With a few constables in undress I went on board the ship like an ordinary individual and seated myself amongst the passengers. Before doing so, I had a private interview with the Captain of the ship and told him the reason of my visit to the steamer. He told me that the Police

searched for the man in the ports of Gopalpore and Calingapatam but did not trace him. This information, however, did not discourage me. I saw a group of passengers seated in a corner of the steamer engaged in a pleasant conversation. I joined them, depositing my boxes near theirs, and took part in their conversation. I remarked, casually, that I saw a Policeman getting ready to come on board the ship in search of a thief, and closely watched what effect that information would produce on any of the men. I saw one of the party changing colour over this piece of news. Within a few minutes he left us, apparently with the view of concealing himself somewhere, but I soon overtook him and explained to him my business. I secured his boxes, and, to the surprise of the Captain, we found all the stolen property in his luggage. The Gopalpore and Calingapatam police failed to spot the man owing to want of tact. I was given one hundred Rupees reward for this good work. Please do not think that

I am giving you an account of all the good cases that I worked, to receive an ovation from you. On the contrary, my reason for giving these cases is to show how a beginner can work out good cases, provided he takes an interest in his work and shows ordinary intelligence.

CHAPTER IV.

BURGLARIES.

NEXT in importance come BURGLARIES. These offences are generally committed by professional thieves, and the task and difficulty of detection on the part of the Police officer are greater in respect of these cases than in others. You must remember that there are different kinds of professional house-breakers and burglars scattered in different parts of the country. The *modus operandi* of an ordinary burglar is to provide himself with house-breaking implements, such as a small but pointed crowbar, and to start on his expedition with one or two of his comrades. These men generally have some one or two individuals in the village or town who give them information about the houses where they can get good booty, and for this work the informer receives a share of the stolen property. These men also furnish the burglars with the plan of

the house and other particulars which facilitate their work. After committing the crime, they retrace their steps to their respective villages, where they are received with open arms by their agents to whom they hand over the stolen property. The property, if gold or silver, is soon melted down or otherwise disposed of so as to prevent identification, and the burglars are safe once more in their houses. These are the cases that demand the exercise of brain and nerve on the part of the Police officer. Unless a policeman studies the bad characters of his own division as well as the neighbouring ones, he cannot hope to succeed in detecting such cases. He must study the ways and means employed by different classes of burglars. With a little experience, he will be able to judge from an inspection of the scene of the crime by what class of burglars the crime was committed.

The ordinary Madras burglar generally digs a hole in the wall close to the door frame, removes the bolts by thrusting his

hands through it, and opens the door. By slightly pushing the door, he can ascertain where the bolt is. If this is impracticable, he makes a bigger hole underneath the door frame, and, forcing an entrance he unfastens the bolts. To make a big hole in a brick wall is a very easy task for him. Once he removes a brick he has little difficulty in getting rid of the other bricks. An inspection of the holes dug will show you whether the crime was committed by a professional thief or a beginner. A professional will bore holes neatly, that is, along the line of the bricks, while a beginner's execution is clumsy and irregular. The North India burglars use better implements such as the auger. With these they bore big holes in the doors and remove the bolts skilfully. The members of this class are so daring and clever that even the most strongly-built places offer them no difficulty in their modes of working. The burglars do not confine their operations to one place. With the facilities afforded by the railway they cover

long distances, and one does not find that his house has been broken into and property lost, till the perpetrators are hundreds of miles away, comfortably seated in a railway carriage. In these cases the Police should adopt very prompt measures or the case will be lost for ever. The subjoined interesting and instructive case will show how promptitude of action produces good results.

In the year 1901, an extraordinary burglary was committed on the night of the 10th October, in the Palace of the Gopalpore Zemindar in the Vizianagram Cantonment. The burglary was only noticed in the morning, and was promptly reported to me. I at once went to the scene of the crime, and made a careful inspection of the place and gathered the following facts:—

The burglars appeared to have scaled the compound wall of the Palace, entered several rooms inside and even went into the bed-room of the Zemindar, removing therefrom several boxes and carrying them

out of the compound. The boxes were all broken open outside the compound and property worth about Rs. 2,000, consisting of gold jewels, was carried away. Many big silver articles, and a gold vessel valued at Rs. 1,000, were thrown away, as they evidently did not know of what metal these articles were made. The information I had from the Zemindar and his relations was that the crime was probably committed by his own servants. One of them had been dismissed a few days back, and he belonged to a village in which lived several notorious burglars well-known in the district, and some of the Rajah's servants informed me that they had also seen some Bantupulli Konda Doras (local burglars) loitering about the neighbourhood of the Palace very recently. It was a dashing piece of business. I found no holes dug in the walls. The burglars got over the roof of several rooms in the Palace, opened the windows by smashing the glasses and apparently moved freely all over the dwelling. The Palace was guarded by

the Rajah's sepoy, but none of the inmates gave them any alarm. The burglary was only noticed in the morning. The Rajah was almost convinced that the crime was committed by his own servants, and that the guard sepoy had connived at it. The S. H. O. and some of his best men were with me. They were also making independent enquiries and were of the same opinion as the Rajah. But I could not see my way to suspect the servants. This was the first time a crime of this nature was committed in this Palace. The *modus operandi* in this case differed from that of the local burglars. The crime was evidently committed by a daring lot of criminals, and I concluded that the culprits must have come from a long distance, and being travellers they must have flung away a large portion of their booty to facilitate their flight. I was also of opinion the number of the culprits must have been small; otherwise they would have taken away the whole property without exciting the suspicion of any one.

My reasonings did not convince the Rajah or my staff, and I decided to act independently. During my investigation, I learnt that the Rajah had celebrated the annual ceremony of a deceased relative and fed a large number of Sadhus and others a few days before the commission of the crime. An inspection of the scene of offence at once led me to suspect the North India burglars, and this was further strengthened when I also learnt that some Sadhus had been fed by the Rajah a few days before the offence. I sent telegrams in all directions instructing police men to search the baggage of every Sadhu found in the neighbourhood, and also sent my men to different parts. On the second day my men found two Sadhus a few miles off Chicacole, about 35 miles North of Vizianagram. They were searched and the whole of the missing property was found in their bundles. They were believed to be Barwars. They were traced to belong to a gang of Allahabad criminals. These men, though young,

were very intelligent and plucky. They would not admit having committed the crime, but said that they found the property in the bed of a stream on their way and picked it up. They made a clever statement before the Magistrate when they were called upon to account for being in possession of the stolen property. They said that they were genuine Sadhus going their way when they met some constables with two prisoners and a bundle of some property; the prisoners gave the constables the slip and disappeared in the neighbouring topes, and just then the constables found them (the Sadhus) on the road and substituted them for the escaped prisoners. This ingenious statement took me by surprise. The Magistrate that tried the case shrugged his shoulders and looked at me. I simply drew his attention to the fact that they were members of an unconvicted Allahabad criminal gang. They would not mention their own residence. When these men were arrested and brought to me, I

examined carefully all their personal property. I found amongst some rubbish, two money-order receipts, which proved that both of them had sent money-orders from Sakhigopal (a small railway station near Poori) to Allahabad on the day previous to the commission of the crime. This clearly showed that these men arrived at Vizianagram by the evening mail, committed the crime the same night, and started by land to take the train at any small railway station to return to their native place thousands of miles away. On arriving at Vizianagram they went to the Rajah's palace to reconnoitre the building. I continued my enquiries about the money-order receipts and found that these men belonged to Allahabad. I sent their photos to the police there, and they informed me that they belonged to a criminal gang. Had I not found the money-order receipts and made further enquiries, the magistrate would have believed the clever defence put forward by the culprits and acquitted them. One should therefore

learn from this case that promptness of action, close observation of facts and intelligent and independent action are absolutely necessary to work out a case successfully. It may not be out of place if I mention to you that I was given a suitable reward.

Sir H. A. Stuart, the then Inspector-General of Police, remarked as follows :—
“ The Police have done good work and if the Rajah does not reward them, I will. Tell Inspector I am very pleased to learn that he acted both promptly and intelligently.”

While on the subject of burglaries, it is necessary that the young Police officer should guard against false scents which the Police subordinate staff sometimes ignorantly put him on. All action should be based on one's own independent views, giving of course weight at the same time to all good reasonings of the Police subordinate staff. It is a mistake to confine oneself to a single theory, while it will be found advantageous to consider and

weigh all possible theories as to the commission of the offence.

I shall quote another instance to prove that the popular opinion may be misleading and that other possible clues should be rigorously and unhesitatingly pursued. A man celebrated the marriage of his son, to which he invited all his relations. The marriage took place during a dark night in the hot weather. On the night of the marriage, he warned all his guest-relations who slept in the verandah at his house against the depredations of thieves, and suggested that they might keep all their jewels in his box for the night. All his relations removed the same, worth about Rs. 700, and delivered them to him. He made a bundle of them and kept them in his big box, which he locked carefully. On the following morning, he found that his box had been opened with a false key and the bundle of the jewels stolen. He reported the matter at the Police Station. Almost all his relations that attended the marriage lost their jewels. They strongly

suspected their host. The Station House Officer made the necessary investigation. Every one suspected that the complainant was the culprit. He could not give a satisfactory explanation why he requested all his guests to keep their jewels with him. There could not have been a wholesale robbery if he had not collected and kept them, for by the time some were robbed, others could have been roused. The complainant pleaded innocence. Every one in the village gave a bad account of him. The Station House Officer wasted much of his time on him, but could not make any progress in the case. Just then I appeared on the scene of crime. All the people accused the complainant of having played this dodge. The complainant appeared to be innocent and deeply regretted his action in collecting the jewels in question. While I was examining the complainant, some people who were present told me that he had already deceived a woman in the village and misappropriated all her money. This woman was

his concubine and was altogether ruined by the machinations of the man. I sent for this woman to enquire about the conduct of the man. She was absent from her home. This roused my suspicions. I sent my men in search of her. In the evening, she returned home. The very sight of me unnerved her. She showed signs of uneasiness and began making inconsistent statements about her doings. Finally, she blurted out a confession that she committed the crime. She said that she had a grudge against the complainant for his having misappropriated all her money and made her a beggar. She was looking out for an opportunity to do him some harm. On the night of the crime, she saw the man collecting all the jewels from his guests with a view to keep them in his box for safe custody. All his guests were sleeping in the verandah of the house, while the complainant locked all the doors and lay down in front of the front door which was fastened with a chain. At midnight, she stole into the room by

removing the chain, opened the box with a false key and removed the bundle of jewels. She kept them for a day in her house, concealing them in a grain receptacle. On hearing of my appearance in the village, she was frightened and threw the bundle of jewels in a well outside the village. This story was a surprise to all that were present. When the well was dragged, the bundle of jewels was found there. The complainant was quite ignorant of this crime and became a victim to the circumstances. The woman with all her villainy did not implicate him in the crime.

Apart from actual burglaries, which, as a rule, give the maximum trouble to the Police, it sometimes falls to their lot to investigate, if not to detect, certain cases of burglaries, which exist only in the imagination of those who report the same for reasons best known to them, and for motives best suited to them. This is a task which is sometimes hopeless to grapple with, though the law lays down that com-

plainants in such false cases should be prosecuted. The motives which actuate the reporters to make false reports are (1) pecuniary benefit and (2) revenge. In all cases where pecuniary benefit is the motive, the parties complain of the loss of property with a view to misappropriate the same. In one case that I investigated, every precaution was taken to make the case appear as true. The facts reported were as follows :— On a dark rainy night, the back door of a house was found forced open. A heap of stones was kept at the door for use in case any resistance should be offered by the inmates of the house. A box was removed to the back yard and its contents rummaged. As no valuable property was found inside, all the cloths found in it were thrown away on the ground in the rain. Entrance was effected into the court-yard of the house. A gold waistband valued at about Rs. 200 was stolen from the person of a girl sleeping with her parents, while the remaining jewels on her person were found intact.

In the meantime, the inmates awoke and the culprits absconded. The above were the particulars as given by the father of the girl. I was in camp when the alleged offence was reported at the station. The Station House Officer investigated the case and sent at once his men to make enquiries amongst the K. Ds. living in the neighbouring villages. I soon returned from camp and investigated the case. My S. H. O. drew my attention to the depredations of the K. Ds. into the town. I received the same particulars as those given to the S. H. O. by the complainant. I wanted him to show me how everything was found on the night of the offence. He produced the cloths and the box thrown away in the back yard. I noticed that all the cloths with the exception of a shawl were found to contain marks of mud. When asked why the shawl was not soiled, he said that the culprits had accidentally thrown it on a pandal in the compound. This roused my suspicions as to the truth of the complaint,

for surely, the thief would not care for the value of the shawl. My suspicions were further strengthened when I learnt that the father of the girl was hopelessly in debt and that the jewel lost was given to the girl by her husband during her marriage. This led me to believe that the father having been hard up for money resorted to this stratagem to meet his demand by misappropriating the jewel which was the girl's property. The father, a shrewd man, at once found out that I smelt the rat and appeared before me with the jewel on the following day with a report that it was found concealed under the bed of the girl and that he did not know who had kept it there.

Another test of a false case of burglary is that on a close scrutiny of the hole bored in a wall, it will be found that the same was made from inside and not by any burglars from outside. But this is so minute a point, that only very keen and watchful eyes can detect it.

In cases where the motive is revenge,

the complainants take care first to foist some of their property on their enemies with a view to get them into trouble.

While on the subject, I should not omit to mention that some indifferent Police officers are apt to refer cases as false while actually they are not so. No case should be referred as false on mere suspicion unless there are substantial grounds for doing so. In all cases where property is said to have been lost, so long as there is evidence that the existence of the property is not a myth, a thorough investigation is necessary. There are cases which may outwardly appear to be entirely false but are really true. It is in such cases, Police officers must refrain from coming to hasty conclusions. To illustrate this, I shall give you an interesting case which I happened to investigate. In the year 1903 an extraordinary burglary was reported to the Railway Police. The facts of the case were as follows. The goods clerk of Vizianagaram Railway Station had a concubine. They were living together in one of

the out-houses of the Railway Station ; one day, he quarrelled with the woman on some domestic affairs and the result was that he removed from her person all the jewels valued at Rs. 900. He made a bundle of them and kept them in a steel safe in the goods shed. The steel safe was a very strong one intended for the custody of Railway money. The goods clerk kept his property there temporarily. On the evening of the day of the commission of the crime, according to the testimony of the complainant, he locked the safe in the usual manner and went home. On the following morning he opened the safe and found the bundle of jewels had gone. This was a mystery that puzzled the complainant. Nothing else was touched though there was a large amount of cash in the safe and to add to this mystery, the lock of the safe was intact and no traces of its being tampered with were found. It was next to impossible to open the safe with a false key. According to the story given by the complainant, the key of the safe was not taken

home by him but was locked in a drawer of his office table the key of which he took home. The case was taken up by the Railway Police as it occurred within Railway limits. The Railway Police Inspector who was but a probationer applied for my assistance in working up this case. The Railway Station House Officer who first investigated the case, declared at the very outset that the story of the complainant was unbelievable. The hypothesis on which he based his theory was, (1) that the complainant had no business to keep his jewels in the Railway safe and that he invented this story to cheat his concubine, (2) that it was most improbable that the culprit could have gleaned intelligence of the existence of the jewels in the safe, (3) that the culprit would not prefer the jewels to cash when committing theft in respect of the property, and (4) that the loss of jewels occurred as the result of the quarrel between the complainant and his concubine. Notwithstanding all this, when I took up the case, I was inclined to have quite a

different theory. There was no necessity for the complainant to make a false report of the crime. He was not bound to give any explanation to his concubine as to what he had done with the jewels. His previous conduct precluded the idea of any fraud on his part. I advised the Railway Police Station House Officer not to arrive at any hasty conclusions but wait patiently till some definite information was forthcoming before declaring the case as false. I resolved to solve this mysterious theft. The safe was solidly fixed in the wall of the goods-shed which was a spacious room with high walls and a roof of corrugated iron sheets. Every evening at the close of business, all the doors of the goods-shed were carefully locked. On the night of the crime, no doors were found broken open. In short, there was nothing to show how the culprit had gained admission into the goods-shed. A careful inspection of the room disclosed an aperture between the walls and the roof through which a burglar could effect his

entrance into the room. Every one in the Railway Station was inclined to the belief that no theft had been committed at all. My theory was that the culprit or culprits gained admission into the godown through the aperture, opened the complainant's drawer by means of false keys, took possession of the key of the safe and removed the jewels from it. They locked the safe again, replaced the key in the drawer and effected their exit through the same aperture. I was inclined to the belief that some of the Railway employees who had previous knowledge of the deposit of the jewels in the safe had committed this crime or else it was incredible that the culprits should have selected the very night the jewels were deposited by the complainant for the commission of this crime. My investigation soon convinced me that there was not the slightest ground for supposing that the case was false. A keen watch was kept over the Railway servants working at the goods-shed for some days without avail. I was working

independently of the Railway Police who were working on the theory that the story of the complainant was false. As this case was shrouded in mystery, I took great interest in solving it. I was certain that some coolies or servants working at the Railway Station were responsible for the crime and that the valuable jewels stolen would prove a white elephant to them. Any attempt to sell them would certainly lead to detection. For two weeks I struggled hard. My friend, the Railway Inspector, used to interview me daily and his patience was nearly exhausted. He expressed a wish that the case might be thrown off as false. I protested against doing so and assured him that the mystery would soon be solved. I argued that the jewels must be found either with the complainant or with the culprit. If they were to be found in the possession of the former, the case would be struck off as false and the complainant could be prosecuted. I was at last rewarded for my patience. One evening a woman turned

up with a curious story. Here I must add that a Police officer should be accessible to all sorts of people. He should not prove himself arrogant, exclusive or unpopular. He must be so easy of access and so inspire confidence in the minds of the public that they should volunteer to him any information they have, otherwise valuable clues to the detection of crimes would be beyond his reach. The woman was a concubine of a goldsmith living in Chinthalavalsa village about 3 miles from the scene of the crime. She having been neglected by him bore a grudge against him. She offered information through spite; she said that he melted a gold jewel brought by a woman of Thuppada village and made a jewel for her. This woman's village was only two miles from Vizianagaram Railway Station and almost all the Railway coolies belonged to that village. I at once felt sure that this information would enable me to solve the mysterious theft. I sent for the Railway Inspector. We went to the village before

dawn and surprised the goldsmith with the information in our possession. He was completely taken aback and admitted that the woman in question brought to him a gold bangle and a silver anklet and that he melted the former and made a 'theega' (or neck ornament) for her and kept the latter with him. He produced the same from a corner of his house where he had buried it. The silver jewel was one of the lost ones. This clue led to the recovery of the remaining property. The woman who got the jewel made by the goldsmith had a daughter living in the village. I naturally concluded that she got the gold jewel made for her daughter. I examined the daughter who denied all knowledge of it. Her house was searched and the newly-made jewel was found concealed in a bundle of seed in the loft of her house. The old woman was soon approached and she admitted that her son, a dismissed watchman at the Railway goods shed, brought the jewel to her house. Her son produced

half of the stolen property buried in the house and added that the crime was committed by himself and another fellow cooly working at the goods shed. His comrade was examined and he said that his share of the property was given to his sister living in another village. Thither we went. His sister had it buried in her house and produced the same from underneath a pot. The whole of the property was thus recovered. From this you will see what fate this important case would have had, had it not been investigated as a true one. Great patience is required in the investigation of such important cases.

It has become a common practice for Police officers at the very outset of their investigation to invent theories with a view to throw off true cases as false. With such absurd theories in their minds, they harass the complainants with numberless annoying questions and give them a lot of worry with the result that police investigation is considered a nuisance and is seldom sought by people unless they are

compelled to do so owing to any aggravating circumstance connected with the crime. The chief reason for resorting to such objectionable practices is nothing but the inordinate desire of the Police officer to show a high percentage of detection by eliminating all undetectable cases from their statistics on false grounds. It is such practice on the part of a few indifferent Police officers that has, in some cases, placed the reputation of the Department in jeopardy, while the prospects of the investigating officer are ruined once for all. Since the practice of judging a man's work by the percentage of detection has become a thing of the past, there exists no temptation for such malpractices.

CHAPTER V.

ROBBERIES AND DACOITIES.

NEXT in importance come ROBBERIES and DACOITIES. These are offences which, in their very nature, are an insult to authority and an assertion of police inefficiency. It is the first and foremost duty of every Police officer to prevent these crimes and, if committed, to detect them. This important duty of detection should under no circumstances be entrusted to men of subordinate ranks ; they may be employed to obtain information that may lead to the detection of the culprits. Robberies and dacoities are usually committed by daring criminals and by organised bands of thieves. Professional bad characters of one or more places join together and arrange their expeditions under the captaincy of one or two men. They generally move about in gangs consisting of a small number of males and females so as to avoid suspicion, and travel in

places where they are very little known. Some assume the disguise of Haridasulu with sacred beads round their necks and other religious marks on their foreheads and bodies. They style themselves religious gurus of certain lower classes and sing ballads peculiar to their castes. Some start as ordinary pilgrims and go about begging in towns and villages on their way to some sacred shrine. These men generally take their abode under big trees in an out-of-the-way village. Two or three gangs, although working together, camp in different villages, each gang bearing its own disguise. They pretend to be ignorant of each other, but communications are, nevertheless, kept up secretly. When they move from one place to another, they travel by different routes, keeping always a good distance of 20 or 30 miles. Wherever they camp, they make friends with the villagers and the leading men of the village, very often giving them small gifts as tokens of their good will. They buy a fat sheep and sacrifice it in

the name of the village goddess and distribute the flesh among the villagers. One or two of these gangs probably are singers and they occasionally give the villagers an entertainment, whilst some of the women of the gang also treat the villagers to music on some crude instrument. Within a short time, they secure the confidence of the villagers who are charmed with these people and beg them to prolong their stay, to which they readily agree, that they may fully study the neighbouring country and select some places for their operations. These gangs never commit crime in or near the places where they camp till a month or two of their departure. They behave in such a way that the villagers never have the slightest suspicion of their character. During their stay, which extends over a fortnight, the gangs will be engaged in discussing their plans and deciding on the house or houses wherein to carry on their depredations, and making a close survey of the buildings that they have set their

eyes upon. They then take leave of the villagers and go on their way. After the lapse of thirty or forty days a daring dacoity is committed in the village or in the neighbourhood by a large number of dacoits. Never for a moment the idea of this gang committing such a crime enters into the heads of the villagers, because the number of the male members of the gang is so small and they are seemingly of such good character that the unsuspecting villagers are led to believe that the crime must have been committed by local professional thieves. The information is soon sent to the Police Station. The police arrive at the spot, and after making the usual enquiries direct their attention to the local K. Ds. Police officers who are ignorant of the *modus operandi* or methods employed by the different criminal gangs are sure to fall into the same line of thinking as the villagers themselves. In the meantime, the gangs that committed the crime are safe in the midst of ignorant and unsuspecting villagers far away from

the scene of their last crime, leaving no trace whatever of their movements. It must, however, be noted that as the gang split up and travel in small numbers under different disguises and avocations the attention of the ordinary Police officers is not attracted. Whenever a dacoity is committed it must be assumed as a sure sign that some criminal gang is somewhere in the neighbourhood. The whole country about nine hundred square miles around the scene of the crime should be searched, and all strangers and wandering gangs should be carefully watched. It is only on very rare occasions that local K. Ds. commit dacoities in their own neighbourhood. Dacoities, when committed by criminal gangs, are always attended with great violence to people. The dacoits generally carry short bamboo latties, and some of them have swords. Venkatapuram gangs are known to carry 'cody kattulu' (small knives used in cock-fighting), in their hair-knots, to be used in cases of emergency. When caught they use these

knives freely. The criminal gangs generally prefer committing dacoities on highways, but as the booty which they get is not very tempting, they sometimes resort to house dacoities.

An account of a daring dacoity by a criminal gang in 1897 may be interesting. On the night of the occurrence the village-head of Palavalasa village was lying on a cot in the verandah of his house. An old woman was shampooing his legs as he was ill at the time. His wife was sleeping in the room with the door shut. At about ten o'clock a number of dacoits entered the compound of his house. Some of them caught hold of the village headman, tied him with a cloth round his neck to the eaves of the roof and beat him unmercifully on the head and the body, demanding to show where he kept his property. His wife, hearing the noise, opened the door and came to his assistance when all of them entered the house and carried away property worth about Rs. 1,400. The

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village where this crime was committed consists of a few huts, and all inmates deserted the village for fear of being beaten, instead of going to the rescue of the headman.

I received the usual report and proceeded to the scene of the crime, about 14 miles from my head-quarters. I found the complainant in a dangerous condition and therefore sent him to the hospital after eliciting from him all possible information. I had been but two months in the Division and greatly depended upon my staff for information. All of them directed my attention to the local K. Ids. who were living in the neighbourhood in large numbers. I asked them if any other such serious crime had ever been committed in the neighbourhood. They said that a heavy robbery was committed on the Rajam road, about 14 miles from the scene of crime, some three months back, and that three Inspectors of the neighbouring Divisions were ordered to detect the culprits, but they were unable to trace them. Being

convinced that this crime was the work of some criminal gangs, I followed a different line of investigation. I made very careful enquiries if any strangers camped in the neighbourhood previous to the commission of the crime. The complainant himself told me that some strangers calling themselves 'Haridasulu' visited his house for purchasing rice, and that they camped for some time in Bushayavalasa and Lakshmipuram villages about three miles away, and that they left a month before the commission of the crime. This information was of great use to me, and my attention was at once directed to this gang. My enquiries at Bushayavalasa village and Lakshmipuram resulted in nothing. All the villagers blamed me for suspecting innocent pilgrims and added that I was on the wrong scent owing to my being new to the Division. My staff and the villagers implored me to pay special attention to the numerous bad characters living in the neighbourhood and in the adjoining Divisions; but I made up my mind to trace the

whereabouts of the gangs that camped in the vicinity of the scene of crime. Deputing some men to work amongst the local bad characters, I started on my expedition to find out the whereabouts of the gangs in question. I employed coolies to search all the out-of-the-way places and to let me know if any gang of strangers was going about the places. They brought me information that they had left for Jeypore District a month back. I decided to go to Jeypore, and started with a few men. This was the first time I went to the hills. My zeal to find out the gangs removed from my mind any fear of falling ill in a malarious tract, and I started for Jeypore. On the way, at two places where arrack was sold, I got information that men answering the description of those in question camped there on their way to Jeypore a month back and spent a lot of money on drink. But in Pottangi and Koraput where there are Police stations, I could get no information about these men. It struck me

that they were avoiding Police stations. I reached Jeypore, and for some days searched the neighbouring places and learnt that such people had not been seen in the neighbourhood. After a vain search, I returned to my head-quarters, stayed a day there, and left for Ganjam District, believing that the gangs might have proceeded northward. I communicated with all the Inspectors in the District, but could get no information about these men. At Chicacole, I learnt that the Parlakimidi Inspector found a gang on the Parlakimidi road and they were put under Police surveillance. I started at once and found a gang camping in a choultry in Sarvakota on the Parlakimidi road. I there learnt that the Parlakimidi Inspector found the gang on the main road and brought them to Sarvakota Police station where they were put under Police surveillance. It did not, however, appear to me that their baggage, etc., had been searched properly. The man whom I took along with me for identification

purposes identified some of the male members. I searched their baggage, but could not find anything, not even money sufficient for their expenses for a day. I arrested all the male members, six in number, and sent them to the Magistrate for remand. I suspected that there was another gang working with this one. I instituted enquiries in the neighbourhood and learnt that a similar gang was camping in Santa Bommali, about 20 miles distance on the Narasannapeta road. I lost no time in starting for the place. It was 7 P.M. when I reached the Police station at Kota Bommali. The Station House Officer told me that the gang camping at Santa Bommali consisted of innocent Haridasulu, and that he did not meddle with them. It was good news for me. The gang did not suspect any danger. I at once proceeded to Santa Bommali, three miles from the Station, and as it was raining very heavily, the gang slept in the verandah of a toddy-drawer's shop. They had packed up all their

'saman' and were ready to start the following morning, and I did not think it prudent to disturb them. In the morning I surrounded them and put a guard over the gang, separating the males from the females. The man who accompanied me identified this gang. I took precautions for making a thorough search of their persons as well as their baggage. Nothing was found on the male persons, but on the person of a woman a gold girdle valued at about Rs. 400, one of the stolen articles, was found in a net bag tied *round her thigh* under her cloth—a clever mode of concealing things adopted by females. The search of females is generally done very carelessly by women, and I gave strict instructions to the female searcher that was deputed to undertake the search. Unless the woman is stripped of her cloth (of course out of sight of males) and a careful search made, there will be little chance of finding the stolen property concealed about her person. The goldsmiths of Santa Bommali, where the gang stopped

some days, made a number of gold and silver jewels for the gang. The goldsmiths spoke to some of the prisoners having brought broken and melted pieces of gold and silver and got them made into ornaments. In their baggage we found bags for money, scales, knives used in cock-fighting, and many other things tending to show that the members of the gang were not a set of people following an honest mode of living. One of the women of the gang who had no stolen property on her person was permitted to go on her journey, but she was arrested by the Ganjam Police while offering a silver girdle for sale a few days after I left Santa Bommali. This was another of the stolen jewels. This showed conclusively that they had buried a portion of the stolen property and unearthed it after I had left the place. I arrested all the male members and the woman on whose person the gold girdle was found. From local enquiries, I learnt that the people of Santa Bommali took them to be very pious and innocent

people. They made friends with an old man who had a lot of money. He was living alone in his house with a minor son. I took him to be a receiver and searched his house. I found gold and silver jewels worth about Rs. 20,000 in his house. This gang apparently spotted his house and he would have been their victim, had it not been for their sudden arrest. The gangs found by me at Sarvakota and Santa Bommalali were the same gangs that had camped at Lakshminipuram and Bushayavalasa, a month before the commission of the crime. They moved towards Jeypore and went into Ganjam District. The male members must have covered long distances by road, committed the dacoity, and joined their gangs who were camped at a considerable distance from the scene of crime. Their finger prints were sent and five of them were traced as old offenders with several convictions against them. Thirteen males and females were charged: three of them were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment

each, and five of them were sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment each. The remaining accused were acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. (Vizagapatam Sessions Case No. 20 of 97.)

The members of these two gangs apparently belonged to Venkatapurum and Motapalli. They committed several crimes in the district for months. No one suspected them as criminal gangs. After I arrested this gang, an experienced and able Inspector remarked to me that he had made a foolish mistake in not following up the good clue which would have resulted in the arrest of this gang. His story was as follows:—A daring robbery was committed one night while a husband and his wife were sleeping on a cot in their house in the heart of the town. Some burglars entered the house, carried the wife into the back yard, and, gagging her mouth, removed the jewels on her person. When the Police Inspector investigated the case in the morning, he found a bag containing some cheroots, tobacco and

chunam boxes, etc., which is an unusual thing to find amongst the natives of these parts. He was aware the gang was camping on the outskirts of his division. As these people were known to be harmless, he did not take note of them.

If the baggage of the gang had been searched, similar tobacco bags would have been found, and suspicions would have been aroused as to who had committed the robbery. Besides this, several other crimes had been committed by them.

From the above narrative of the case quoted it will be observed that it took about thirty days to trace the crime and bring the perpetrators to justice. I was on the move for days together, sometimes not knowing at what place I would sleep at nights, but the ultimate arrest of the gang compensated me for the trouble I had undergone. The success in this case, and in every case, is due to the unwearied *perseverance and cheerful spirit with which the clues were followed up*. It is needless to state the importance of making a

thorough investigation and then following up the clues with unflagging energy. The cheerfulness with which an investigation is started will often fade away within a few days after the commission of the crime, but it is necessary that you should not get weary in your search. Even if no clues are forthcoming, or the clues obtained do not result in the detection of the case, it should not be left to its own fate, and endeavours to detect the case should not cease.

CHAPTER VI.

INQUEST REPORTS.

ON receipt of a village report or a complaint about a suspicious death, no time should be lost in proceeding to the spot. Arrangements should be made to start at a moment's notice, and this can only be done by having your camp '*saman*' separate. The delay of a few hours is detrimental to the successful investigation of any case.

On reaching the scene of crime, no delay should be made in holding the inquest in all cases of suspicious deaths. The Inquest Report, generally known as Mahazarnama, is considered the most important document which figures in all cases of sudden or unnatural deaths, and it is imperative that the Police should invariably be present at that inquiry. Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 174, deals with the powers of the Police to hold inquests, and this should be studied carefully. The inquest reports prepared by Station House

Officers are generally most unsatisfactory and incomplete ; for, it seldom finds place in the inquest report though evidence is in many cases elicited at the trial regarding the state and position of the body and its surroundings. The detection of a crime depends upon the precision and accuracy with which the inquest report is drawn up and the reliance which can be placed upon it. In all cases in which inquest reports have been delayed or badly drawn up, the culprits have greater chance of escape from punishment than otherwise. Omission in observing any detail or point in the Inquest Report will be availed of as an argument in favour of the prisoner. A clever Vakil will not fail to cross-examine on all omissions and will make them formidable weapons against the prosecution. There is always some difficulty in getting respectable men to sit on the inquest owing to their dread of pollution from being brought into contact with a dead body. Every endeavour should therefore be made to secure the services of dis-

interested and respectable men of the village or town to give their independent opinion. They should not be allowed to sit at a distance and afterwards sign the record. We should insist upon their personally satisfying themselves as to the correctness of the statements in the inquest report. In several cases, the judges remarked that the panchayatdars are either the relatives or friends of the deceased or enemies of the accused. On this ground, they have rejected all important evidence in the inquest reports.

The inquest report should contain full and detailed information on the several points touching the cause of the death of the deceased. The evidence of witnesses examined at the inquest should be full and at the same time brief, so that much time may not be wasted. The corpse must be sent for *post-mortem* examination without a moment's delay to the nearest hospital.

Full and complete notes should be recorded in note books while holding inquests. Very often they will be called for

for perusal by courts who attach so much importance to the first observations and evidence recorded in note books.

At the inquest, it is of the utmost importance to gather all evidence as to the cause of the death. It should be ascertained whether the death is homicidal, suicidal or accidental. In several cases, suicides and accidental deaths have been reported indiscriminately as murders. Many such instances are given in Medical Jurisprudence, and one should be extremely careful in one's first observations and collection of evidence at the time of the inquest. In a case which I myself investigated, a Village Magistrate sent in a report that a woman had caused the death of another woman's child by putting poison into its mouth, and sent with his report a brass cup smelling of opium. I immediately proceeded to the scene of the alleged offence and investigated the case. The facts elicited from the mother of the child were as follows:—She left her child, aged two months, lying on a

cot in the verandah of her hut, and went out on some business. No one was in her hut at the time. When she returned within an hour, she found the accused sitting by the side of her child and meddling with its mouth, and she also noticed a frothy substance coming from its mouth. The child died within a few minutes. As the mother found a brass cup in the hands of the accused while she was meddling with the child, she accused her of having killed her child by putting something in its mouth. The matter was brought to the notice of the Village Magistrate who sent a report to the station. The mother of the child could attribute no motive for the murder. The accused was no relative of the complainant, much less her enemy. The accused explained that she went to the hut to ask for a loan of salt, and took a measuring cup for the same. When she went there she found the child in convulsions, and helpless. Froth was coming out of the child's mouth, causing suffocation. Just

as she was removing the froth, the mother turned up and accused her of having put something in its mouth. She made her statement in a straightforward manner. Further evidence which I had collected showed that the death of the child was due to natural causes. The complainant had six children, and all died of convulsions at the age of two or three months. This was the seventh child which met the fate of its predecessors. When I asked the complainant why she should not think that the child had died in the same way as the others, she said that it might be so, but that she was misled by the fact that the accused was meddling with the child while it was dying, and that in her first pangs of grief she did not know what she said. Such cases often happen, and the investigating officer should not be led away by the stories of ignorant villagers. Before concluding the remarks on inquests, I wish to draw your special attention to certain natural deaths which are sometimes reported through spite to the police as murders.

In a case which I investigated, a natural death was reported as murder. The facts of the case were briefly as follows:—A husband and wife had, as usual, their evening meal at the usual hour. The wife, who had been confined two months previously, was not keeping well. The husband left for his field after dinner, and soon after the wife took ill suddenly. She had some severe diarrhœa accompanied by vomiting. She was in a state of collapse before medical aid could be got. A native quack was sent for and, as he found the case hopeless, he administered to her the pill generally given in such cases. She died soon afterwards. The husband turned up from his field. So did the brothers of the woman from a neighbouring village. The sister of the deceased's husband living next door was in bad terms with the deceased. The sudden death led them to suspect that the woman had been poisoned by her enemy. The Village Magistrate was made to report that the deceased had been poisoned. I

promptly proceeded to the spot and held the inquest. All the facts elicited at the inquest showed that the death was natural. The deceased's health for some time past had been far from satisfactory. She ate some vegetable curry which upset her stomach so much as to bring on choleraic symptoms. As no immediate medical aid was given, she soon succumbed to the disease. As there was a suspicion of foul play, I sent the body for *post-mortem* examination. The viscera, fæces, and the vomited matter were sent to the chemical examiner. The chemical examiner found no traces of poison in the vomitings and purgings, but in the viscera was found an alkaloid giving the physiological reactions of aconitine. What is the natural conclusion from this? If the woman had been really poisoned, poison should certainly have been found in the vomited matter and fæces sent to the chemical examiner. What about the finding of the alkaloid above referred to? This is the result of the quack doctor administering the dose of

the medicine (pills) which contained a small proportion of aconite. I made inquiries about the composition of the pill administered and found that it contained aconite. It must be distinctly understood that almost all the medicines given by quack doctors in the last moments of the patients contain poison. And one should therefore never conclude that the finding of a very small quantity of such poisons is conclusive evidence that there was any foul play in the death of any person so found.

The following remarks made by the learned Judge in a murder case (Sessions Case No. 27 of 98, Vizag. Dt.) may be instructive :—

“ I think it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the facts that both arsenic and aconite were found in the child's inside ; that it is very unlikely that an ignorant old woman would have administered two different poisons to the child at the same time ; that it is much more likely that they were combined in a dose of medicine

given by a quack doctor ; and that so small an amount was administered ; point far more in the direction of an overdose of medicine than in that of a deliberate administration of poison by the prisoner."

Everything depends upon evidence. It is only by evidence, that you can find whether a case is homicidal, suicidal, or accidental. In all these cases, the chemical examiner invariably finds poison in the viscera. It is for you to find out whether the poison was administered *bonâ fide* by another for medical purposes, or for killing him, or whether the man swallowed the poison to commit suicide, or whether he took it accidentally. It is only by close observation and careful investigation you can arrive at the truth, or else you will be sometimes running in an innocent person for murder. It is therefore needless under these circumstances to dwell too highly upon the importance of the collection of evidence at the inquest.

Next in importance comes the identification of the body. Many cases have

fallen to the ground owing to want of evidence of identification. As a result of the scanty clothing which natives generally wear, it is often exceedingly difficult to identify the remains, and hence it is important that nothing should be omitted that will bear upon the question of identification.

Investigating officers introduce into the inquest report superfluous details which not only occupy much time but afford room for cross-examination by the defence. The evidence recorded must be brief and to the point and should be written very carefully, giving all the important facts bearing on the case. The inquest reports should be sent immediately after the inquest. Any delay in receipt of these reports by the magistrate is considered a serious defect. In Vizagapatam Sessions Case No. 19 of 1903, the judge sentenced the first accused to be hanged, subject to the confirmation by the High Court. On the accused appealing, the High Court reversed the sentence and directed the release of the prisoner.

The High Court remarked as follows :—

“ The date of the inquest report has been altered ; some of those who are stated in it to have been present at the inquest, apparently were not there at all. At least one witness was laboriously tutored by the police to give false evidence so as to connect all the accused. It is, moreover, abundantly clear that a great deal of false evidence has been introduced into the case.”

Obviously the above remarks of the High Court are the result of a badly written inquest report, and it is much to be regretted that room is given for such remarks.

Make a rough plan of the spot where the corpse was first found and its surroundings. Carefully note down all that you observe near the scene of crime, that will aid you in your investigation. Nothing, however trivial, should escape your notice. In Sessions Case No. 11 of 1904, Vizagapatam, two persons were charged with the murder of a man. The case for the prose-

cution was that one morning the deceased went to water his field, that he there had a dispute regarding the watering with the accused who had land under the same tank, and that the dispute ended in his murder by the accused. Five witnesses were examined for the prosecution to connect the accused with the murder. The Judge threw out the case on the assumption that the murder was not committed at the spot where the body was found. He remarked as follows :—

“ The prosecution case is based on the assumption that Kannayya was actually killed at the place where his body was found. The facts observed on and near the body *primâ facie* negative the assumption. The body was lying in a channel covered with water, save as to the head and neck which were raised on the bank. There were no traces of the water having risen high enough to flow over the face. There must have been a copious flow of blood from the wounds, but save inside the wounds there was no blood anywhere on

the head. There was no blood anywhere on the ground, not even under the head. There were no marks of any struggle. The hoe with which the murder is said to have been committed might reasonably be expected to be smeared with blood on it. There was no sign of blood. It was not in the water. Its blade was in the mud and the handle was leaning against the bank. All these indications are consistent with Kannayya having been murdered somewhere else, having been bled to death and having then been brought and placed in the channel. Prosecution 3rd witness does not say the accused remained to remove any traces of their deed. That they would return is in the highest degree improbable. It was just before daybreak when they left the scene. It is also improbable any one else would care to meddle with the corpse and its surroundings. I am not satisfied that Kannayya was killed at the place where he was found and cannot therefore act upon the prosecution evidence."

The foregoing remarks of the learned Judge cannot but indicate the great importance of noting down the position of the corpse and its surroundings and of weighing carefully all the facts touching the death of the deceased.

The subjoined case (Vizagapatam Sessions Case No. 20 of 1905) will show you how I secured a conviction in a murder case by attending to the principles above laid down.

A ghastly murder was reported from Narava village about 10 miles from Vizagapatam. On the morning of 27th August, 1905, a small boy, 8 years old, took his morning meal and drove his father's cattle as usual to the hill a few furlongs from his village, but did not return home for his mid-day meal. His parents became alarmed. His father and others went to the hill and searched for him everywhere in vain. About 3 P.M. this search party met one Sathigadu who informed them that it was no use looking for him at the hill as he

Narava Mur-
der case.

had met him in the morning going towards the village near a bent palmyra tree, after leaving the cattle at the hill to graze. They then returned to the village to find deceased still absent. Suspecting some foul play, they, with others, commenced a search of the prickly-pear and ground between the bent palmyra and the village and in the course of the search, the boy's mutilated body was found concealed in the mass of prickly-pear lying by the side of the road leading to the hill. The boy was strangled to death. The boy had silver bangles, gold ear-rings, a nose ring and a coral necklace on his person, worth in all Rs. 13. When the dead body was discovered, it was noticed that the wrists had been cut off in order to remove the bangles. The lobes of both ears had been torn in order to take the ear-rings. The only thing left was a worthless brass wire ear-ring in the left ear. The Village Magistrate sent the village report which was as usual very badly drawn up. In the village report he made no mention of the

loss of jewels on the person of the murdered boy,—a very bad omission calculated to strike at the very root of the case. I at once brought this irregularity to the notice of the officers concerned and commenced the investigation. I held the usual inquest. During my local inspection of the scene of crime, an important fact arrested my attention and this important fact alone assisted me in procuring the conviction of the culprit. The mass of prickly-pear in which the murdered corpse was discovered lay behind the accused's hut. There was a narrow, tortuous and evidently disused passage through the prickly-pear which merged into the accused's 'Niveshanam,' a small plot of ground, next to his hut. It was in this passage the mutilated corpse was found. Both ends of this narrow passage were blocked up by prickly-pear newly cut for this purpose. This incident suggested to my mind that the murderer blocked up the passage to prevent any one from discovering the corpse. The passage in

question was a disused one and no one except the accused had any occasion to block the passage as described above. I made a strong point of this. The other important evidence which I collected was briefly as follows :—One witness said that while cleaning his teeth at his well in his field lying by the side of the path, he saw the accused standing near the prickly-pear and as he was going away saw the deceased boy approaching from the direction of the hill and afterwards heard the accused call him. Another witness said that he saw the accused clearing away the prickly-pear at the place where the above witness said that he saw him. There was some other evidence not very important. The property robbed from the murdered boy could not be recovered as the accused had concealed it somewhere. When the case was tried in the Sessions Court, the Judge did not place so much reliance on the Prosecution evidence, but based his judgment on the facts which he observed by local inspection of the scene of crime.

During the trial, the Judge expressed his doubts about the guilt of the accused. I prayed for his local inspection of the scene of crime which, I said, was the strongest point of my case. The Judge accordingly visited the scene of crime: the result was that the Judge was convinced of the truth of the case and convicted the culprit. He based his judgment entirely upon his local inspection. I quote a part of his judgment which must be very interesting and instructive to my readers.

“ Both assessors are of opinion that the accused is ‘ not guilty, ’ but I do not think that they have allowed sufficient weight to the circumstances that the murderer attempted to conceal the dead body with prickly-pear and to close the entrances to the passage through the prickly-pear in which it was, one of these entrances being on the margin of garden land close to accused’s house of which he is in possession. The finding of the dead body of a murdered person in an out-house of which the door, though shut, is unlocked when no attempt

has been made to conceal the body would entail only suspicion upon the owner of the out-house, but the finding of it in an out-house covered over so as to conceal it and the door locked would altogether alter the aspect of affairs and make the presumption irresistible that the person who locked the door, which was not usually locked, was the person who had murdered the deceased and concealed the body. Here the circumstances are exactly analogous to the latter case. We have a narrow and very difficult passage through prickly-pear from accused's garden to a lane in general use which hardly anyone but accused and his father could know had an opening into their garden and the body found in it concealed with prickly-pear and a thorn branch newly cut and the passage newly blocked at both ends with prickly-pear when the only person who had an interest to block this passage in order to keep people and animals such as pigs from getting into the garden was accused as there is no doubt that his father was away from home that

morning. Had any stranger committed *the murder it is impossible to believe that* he would have risked discovery by doing these unnecessary acts. He would have made no attempt to conceal the body for once he could get away, the only persons that would be suspected would be accused and his father who alone could be supposed to be aware how far this passage extended and he would never have risked discovery by staying to cut prickly-pear, etc., first to cover up the body and then to block the passage not only towards the cross-lane which was fairly safe but on the side of accused's garden which was beyond measure risky as here he would be in view of the inmates of accused's house and people passing along the northern road whose attention and suspicions could not but be aroused by seeing a stranger so engaged where he had no business to be much less to be working.

“Differing from both assessors I am of opinion that the concealing of the body and the blocking up at both ends of the

narrow and difficult passage at the side of which it lay in order to prevent possible searchers entering renders it beyond doubt that the accused was the murderer seeing that his father was not at home that morning, for no one else would have ventured to block the northern end of the passage opening on to accused's 'Niveshanam,' for no one else could do so without attracting attention and arousing suspicion. There is nothing improbable too in the evidence of prosecution witnesses 5 and 6 although having regard to the manner in which the evidence of prosecution witnesses 2, 3 and 4 has been manipulated. I am compelled to hold it unreliable. One thing is certain and that is, that accused was at home at the time of the murder and that his father who is the only other person who could have committed this murder was not. That the ornaments for the sake of which the boy was murdered have not been found with accused counts for nothing, for the murder was not discovered for a good many hours and such articles are easy to conceal."

“The murder was no doubt a most brutal and cold-blooded one, but we have it brought home to accused by circumstantial evidence alone and although in this case this circumstantial evidence appears to be *conclusive*, I hesitate upon such evidence alone to impose the irrevocable penalty of death because seemingly conclusive circumstantial evidence has been known in some few instances to have proved fallacious. Convicting the accused of the offence of ‘Murder’ with which he stands charged, I sentence him under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code to transportation for life.”

When the prisoner appealed, the High Court confirmed the sentence. The judgment runs as follows:—“Though the evidence against the accused is only circumstantial, I agree with the Sessions Judge that it is sufficient to justify the conviction.”

CHAPTER VII.

MURDER CASES.

NEXT come the most important of all crimes, *viz.*, Murders. To detect these cases a great deal of intelligence, tact and patience is required. The first move an investigating officer is required to make in a murder case, is to hold an inquest on the corpse of the murdered person. After ascertaining at the inquest the circumstances under which the deceased was murdered, one has to detect the culprits who murdered the deceased. This is the most difficult task to accomplish. The detection of the culprits and securing their conviction will be a feather in the cap of every Police officer. Remember the stories of Sherlock Holmes and other detectives in novels. They cannot fail to strike one as to how cleverly and indefatigably the investigating officers solved the most mysterious of cases. It is true that the detective work on those lines is impracticable in our country where people

are reluctant to give information simply because they fight shy of giving evidence in Courts. Even the educated and enlightened are loth to give evidence in Courts. This drawback handicaps the Police in getting evidence to secure the conviction of culprits. Never give up a case as impossible to detect ; for detecting a case is only a question of time and perseverance. There are several instances in which cases were detected some months after their commission. Every Police officer gifted with the three P's, *viz.*, patience, perseverance and pluck, is sure to attain success.

The motives for committing murders are (1) revenge, (2) robbery and (3) pecuniary benefit without robbery. In all cases of murders, with the exception of those committed in the heat of passion under provocation, the culprits take extreme precautions to destroy all traces or clues which may lead to the detection of the crime, and therefore detection in such cases is almost hopeless unless some traces are

forgetfully left behind, such as their footprints, shoes, knives, cloths, etc. These murders are generally committed during the silent hours of the night and direct evidence cannot therefore generally be forthcoming. The whole case must depend upon circumstantial evidence. For this purpose, every available piece of evidence touching the following points should be collected :—

(1) Enmity between the deceased or deceased's family and others.

(2) Any recent occurrence which may have prompted the commission of the crime.

(3) Person or persons in whose company the deceased was just before his murder.

(4) Any footprints of the culprits found at the scene of the murder.

(5) Anything belonging to the culprits left behind at the scene of crime, such as shoes, knife, cloth, etc.

(6) Any men found loitering near the scene of crime before the commission

thereof. Any people in the neighbourhood who heard any cries of the deceased and observed any one running away from the scene of the crime.

(7) Any conspiracy formed to take away the life of the deceased.

(8) Any criminal or civil suits pending between the deceased and any others on or about the time of the commission of the offence.

(9) Any hot words exchanged between the deceased and any others just before the occurrence of the crime.

(10) Any previous disputes amongst the family members and whether by the death of the deceased any benefit has accrued to any one in particular.

(11) Any dispute between the deceased and any others about any woman.

(12) The nature of wounds to ascertain the nature of the weapon used in committing the crime.

(13) If the death is by strangulation, whether one or more could have done it.

(14) If the death is by poison, nature

of the symptoms shown by the deceased. Whether any poison was purchased or possessed by any one interested in the death of the deceased.

In some cases of murder, mostly in cases committed in the heat of passion under provocation, the victims may live for some time and would be able to make important statements regarding the circumstances which led to the commission of crime. Such statements are called dying declarations which form a very important piece of evidence in murder cases. I do not propose to give in these pages the rules to be observed in getting the declarations recorded, etc. I wish to draw your attention to a mistake which generally creeps into the investigation made by inexperienced investigation officers. In cases where a dying declaration is recorded and at the time of recording it, the accused happens to be in custody, the accused is not generally placed before the person making a dying declaration against him for identification purposes as

well as for giving the accused opportunity of cross-examining him.

The Judge's remarks in Sessions Case No. 14 of 1895, Vizagapatam District, will show the above defect was made a strong point in acquitting the accused. The remarks run as follows:—"I now come to the dying declaration. This I find to be inadmissible because not proved and to be worth little or nothing, if found admissible. The prisoner was at Parvati-pur on the whole of the 5th, 6th and 7th of June. His wife (the deceased) was there too on those days. But no dying declaration was taken in his presence. I am disposed to think that this wilful abstention from allowing the prisoner to cross-examine his wife renders inadmissible the dying declaration, though this would not be so, had the omission been unavoidable."

We cannot lay down any hard and fast rules about the inquiries to be made in murder cases. Searching inquiries should be made on all points, however trivial,

and it is only then that you can succeed in tracing the culprits.

It must be borne in mind that the majority of murder cases that fall through in Sessions Courts are only those that are badly investigated. It is, therefore, of primary importance that one should maintain a cool and calm attitude while investigating a murder case. Generally a beginner gets puzzled and troubled on receipt of a report of murder. From the time of receipt of the report till he closes the investigation, he will be imagining what trouble may befall him, if the case is not detected or if it is dismissed in Court. The timidity with which he starts investigating a case unnerves him, and the result is that several mistakes, that would not otherwise occur, creep into his investigation. Start the investigation with a cheerful heart, devoting heart and soul to it without thinking of the results of your work, and it is certain that you will either succeed in detecting the case or at all events your superiors will be pleased with

your honest and good work. One cannot hope to succeed in every case. All that is required of an investigating officer is patience, intelligence, and unwearied perseverance. Your superiors will not accuse you of failure, so long as they are satisfied that you have done your best in the case.

I give you an instance in which the Judge, who tried the first murder case of mine, passed very severe strictures against my conduct with regard to the mode of my investigation and even suggested my being prosecuted for fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction for a capital offence. In a lengthy judgment, Sessions Case No. 4 of 1895, covering 72 pages in print, he discharged the accused, remarking as follows against myself and the committing Magistrate:—

“ I find that Government servants have deliberately given and helped to fabricate and support untrue evidence against persons sent up by them to be tried for their lives. I find that these Government servants have been parties to the fabri-

cation of false evidence supported by false confessions obtained by deliberately disregarding the law and rules framed to prevent such fabrication and extortion of confessions.”

I was called upon for an explanation by the Inspector-General of Police who, on perusing my explanation, was pleased to pass the following order :—

“As far as I can see, the Police appear to have worked the case particularly carefully and I see no reason whatever to blame them. The Inspector appears to have done well. The Superintendent will give the Inspector a copy of this order.”

What do you learn from the above? The Departmental Superiors will never find fault with their subordinates provided they do their work in an honest and straightforward manner. This sensational case was ordered to be re-tried by the High Court, and another Judge who tried the case on its re-trial, convicted one of the accused and sentenced him to transportation for life after the lapse of about 12

months. As this case deals with many important facts and has several aspects, I should like to give particulars of it that it may be instructive to my readers.

Two prisoners were charged with having murdered on the evening of
Bimlipatam
Murder Case.
 1st January, 1895, in Bimlipatam, a Brahman boy, the only son of a widow. The boy, aged 9 years, was living with his mother in a house, part of which they occupied, the other part being occupied by one Rama Sastry and his family. The boy was last seen alive by his mother after sunset, when he was leaving the house by the back door to take matches to the first accused who lived next door. The first accused lived in rooms rented from a woman named Lakshamma who with her family occupied the rest of the building. The boy was seen by this Lakshamma going with the matches with the accused into the room of the latter. The boy was never again seen alive. Although a search was made for him in many places that night, first by his

mother and then by her co-tenant Rama Sastry, he could not be found, and information was laid early the next morning at the Police Station of his being missed. At 9 that morning, the corpse of the murdered boy was found lying in a latrine belonging to the first accused and situated nearly opposite to the rooms he was occupying but actually adjoining the back-yard wall of the boy's own house. Two gold bangles worth Rs. 20 or 25 that he had on his person the previous evening were found missing. I was at Vizianagram on special duty at that time. The Sub-Magistrate held the inquest in my absence, assisted by my staff. Several marks of injury were found on the body, especially the private parts and the cause of death was found to be strangulation. The verdict was confirmed at the *post mortem* examination made later on in the course of the day. At the inquest it was held that the murder had been committed for the sake of the boy's missing bangles. The first accused was then

suspected of the crime because of the fact that the murdered boy was last seen in company with the accused and also that the corpse was seen in the first accused's own latrine. The lodgings of the first accused were accordingly searched for the missing gold bangles of the boy and at about 4-30 that afternoon, they were discovered in a hole in a wall inside the first accused's inner room. When confronted with the fact by the Magistrate who was present at the search, the first accused confessed that he and his friend, the second accused, had killed the boy on the previous night in order to rob him of his ornaments. These are the simple facts of the case put forward by the prosecution in proof of the charge. The evidence in this case consisted of : —

1. The disappearance of the boy after he had gone to the first accused's house and of the bangles he had on his person at the time.

2. The finding of the boy's corpse in the first accused's privy minus the bangles.

3. The subsequent finding of the bangles concealed in the first accused's house prior to which the prisoner had tried to get them melted.

4. Two confessional statements of the first accused that he and the second accused had murdered the boy for his bangles.

In this case the discovery of the deceased's bangles in the first accused's room was the life of the prosecution, while accessibility to the room for others was that of the defence. The search was conducted by a Head Constable and a Constable who stripped themselves of everything and put on "lungoties" furnished them by the prisoner. After bringing a lot of things out of the house, they finally brought out the bangles which the boy's mother identified. The Magistrate was present throughout the search and watched the proceedings of the Police.

The Judge who tried the case, after making a personal inspection of the scene of crime, made a terrible attack on the dis-

covery of the bangles in the first accused's room. There was an aperture between the wall and the roof of the room where the bangles were found, through which it was possible for a person to pass from the adjoining room occupied by the prisoner's landlady. From the existence of this possible opportunity of concoction, the Judge allowed himself to argue that the bangles had been foisted into the prisoner's room, and made the following remarks about the search of the first prisoner's house and the discovery of the deceased boy's bangles in this room :—

“ The rules for the conduct of searches will be found in Chapter VII, C.P. C., and in Order No. 140 of the Madras Police Orders. The section which chiefly provides against fabrication of false evidence under colour of a search is Section 103, Cr. P. C. It provides that ‘ before making a search under this chapter the officer or other person about to make it shall call upon two or more respectful inhabitants of the locality in which the place to be

searched is situated to witness the search. The search shall be made in their presence. The occupant of the house or some persons in his behalf shall in every instance be permitted to attend during the search.' This is perhaps sufficiently clear but the Police Order No. 140 emphasized it by still further insisting on these safe-guards against the fabrication of false evidence by others who may introduce articles creating suspicion into the house. The Police Order says: 'The law requires that search be made in the presence of two or more respectable persons. Care must be taken that these persons observe every part of the search. Before entering the premises, care will be taken to examine minutely the exterior of the place to be searched and to observe whether there is easy access or opportunity for introducing articles without the knowledge of the inmates. A note of this will be then and there made. They should search in the presence of the witnesses. Should anything be discovered, care will be taken to observe all facts and

appearances relating to it whether it would be possible for the article to be placed where it was found without the knowledge of the inmates, etc., a note of the fact should be made then and there. The witnesses should be invited to give their opinion freely on these points. *These opinions should be noted down.'*”

After quoting the above orders on the searches the Judge criticised the *modus operandi* adopted by the Police and the Magistrate in the following terms:—“The prisoner must be left along with the Police if he was to be induced to make a confessional statement. Now what was done? A show was made of selecting witnesses. No less than five of them were selected, but they were witnesses in name only. These were kept outside and allowed to see no part of the search. As to making any notes as to the accessibility of the place, much less inviting the attention of the witnesses to this point and making a note of the result, it is admitted that none of these things were done. The Head

Constable's note book and diary contain no note as to the accessibility or otherwise of the room where the bangles were found. As to the so-called witnesses not being allowed to witness the search, the Magistrate says: 'When the search was made and the bangles found, the people brought to witness the search were outside and could not see the search being made. I did not think that the witnesses should see the search made. I thought it would be sufficient if they were present at the house. I consider that the provisions of Section 103, Cr. P. C., were sufficiently complied with by having the witnesses outside the house where they could not see the persons searching. This has been the practice. The witness would have to be searched before going in.' This evidence of the Magistrate requires little comment. There is one comment, however, which I think should be made. I find that the five witnesses of the search were not allowed to witness the search and that the Police were thus left alone

with the first prisoner in a dark room at the time when the first prisoner says this confessional statement was extorted."

When the appeal under Section 417, Cr. P. C., against the judgment of acquittal in this case was heard by the High Court, the Judges said : " In regard to the irregularity of the search itself, the Magistrate explains that it was the usual practice for the witnesses not to go inside, because, if they did, it would entail their persons also being searched before they entered. We have reason to believe that the Magistrate's statement as to the practice, whatever be the cause for it, is correct though it is of course irregular and may be a ground for rejecting evidence of the search altogether, reading Sec. 103 of Cr. P. C. with Secs. 91 & 92 of the Evidence Act."

Another serious irregularity pointed out by the Judge was that the Police officer or the Magistrate did not make a note as to the accessibility of the room to others. No doubt, this was a serious omission.

There was an aperture between the wall and the roof of the room of the first prisoner through which it was possible to foist bangles without the knowledge of the prisoner. Taking this omission seriously, the Judge made a formidable attack on the conduct of the Police and the Magistrate. The Magistrate and the Head Constable who were responsible for the proper search of the first prisoner's room did not observe carefully the aperture that existed between the wall and the roof of the house. When the question arose in Court about the accessibility of the room to others, the Magistrate was examined on this point and he gave his evidence as follows :—

“There was an aperture between the roof and the top of the room where the bangles were found but a man could not get in. It was eight or nine inches wide and one foot high as the roof slopes up. I do not think a man could get in. I have no doubt that a man could not get in. A thin boy could get in with difficulty.”

The Judge decided to inspect the

aperture and proceeded to Binlipatam and in company with the Superintendent of Police and the committing Magistrate, inspected the aperture. After the inspection the committing Magistrate was examined again on this point and he deposed as follows :—

“I have seen the aperture in the wall between the room of the first accused’s house where the bangles were found and the adjoining house of the Vaishnava people. I have seen it twice since I last gave my evidence on the 16th. I saw it first on the 17th. On the first day of my examination, I gave the measurement of this aperture by surmise. After measuring the aperture, I found that a man of ordinary size may go through the aperture. I have seen a man pass through the aperture on the occasion the District Judge and Police Superintendent were present.”

You will see from the above extracts of the evidence of the committing Magistrate that he made an inaccurate statement about the aperture which roused the sus-

picious of the Judge who tried the case. If the Magistrate or the Head Constable had made careful inspection of the aperture at the time of search and made a note of it, the Judge would not have formed such unfavourable impressions. At the time of the inspection of the aperture by the Judge and the Superintendent of Police, the latter noticed a large number of cobwebs across the roof just over the aperture and a very large one on the wall in the room of the prisoner hanging in a loop. It was an old cobweb black with soot. He said in evidence that any one getting down the wall would have brushed it off. He touched it and it fell on the ground. It would be impossible for any man with anything in his hand to have got over the wall.

I should mention here that if the investigating Police Officer or the committing Magistrate had noticed the black cobwebs (which would take a long time to turn black) at the aperture at the time of the search and made a note of it, the Judge

would not have been led away into an impression that any one could have passed through the aperture and foisted the bangles into the room. Too much cannot be said about the irregularity of searches, for I wish to impress on your mind the importance of searches of houses in a proper manner consistent with Law and Police Orders.

I now come to my share of the severe remarks which the Judge was pleased to pass for irregularities in my investigation. As soon as I learnt by wire of the occurrence I left Vizianagram for Bimlipatam the same evening and commenced my investigation. By that time the inquest had been held, and the gold bangles had been found in the first prisoner's room. A confessional statement of the first prisoner had been recorded and the two prisoners were kept in custody. All that was necessary for me was to gather circumstantial evidence as to what the accused did, before and after the commission of the crime. I examined the first prisoner and he made

a clean breast of what he had done, repeating the confession he made before the Magistrate at the time of the finding of the bangles in his house, and he added that he attempted to get the bangles melted the same night at the shop of a goldsmith but failed to do so

The Judge examined my note book and the S. H. O.'s note book and found one discrepancy in the first prisoner's statement as regards his visit to a latrine Inspector on the night of the crime. This incident in respect of which the contradiction occurred, was an irrelevant one. I explained to the Judge that I did not hear the first prisoner mentioning his visit to the latrine Inspector and added that if he did mention the incident, it must have escaped my attention. S. H. O. who took a longer time in recording his statement heard him mentioning this incident and therefore entered it in his note book. The Judge did not accept my explanation and remarked as follows :—

“ The only hypothesis which suggests

itself to me in explanation of the Head Constable's and Inspector's irreconcilable stories of what the first prisoner stated to the Police on the night of 2nd January, is that the prisoner's own statement to the effect that he never stated anything to them is true, that both the Inspector and the Head Constable have perjured themselves, because they do not wish to disclose the fact that they got the information as to witnesses who would be provided for the prosecution from a tainted source."

I will relate another interesting case
 Vizianagram which occurred in Vizianagram
 Murder in 1901 and which will throw
 Case. some further light on the difficulties of a
 Police Officer in working up good cases.
 The whole town of Vizianagram was
 horrified at the news that a girl aged 11
 years had been most brutally murdered
 and her corpse thrown into a tank by the
 side of a much frequented public road.
 On the night of Sivaratri festival, the
 culprit cut the throat of the girl and

removed, by cutting off her nose and the lobes of her ears, three gold nose-rings and two ear-rings that she had on her person at the time and threw the dead body into a tank by the road side. I was at Ramatheertham, 10 miles from Vizianagram, where my services were required to preserve order during the festival. I received the express report in this case at about 11 A.M. and proceeded at once to the scene of crime. By the time I arrived at Vizianagram, the inquest had been already held and the corpse had been sent for *post-mortem* examination. Fortunately, I reached the hospital in time to examine the corpse before its dissection. The semi-circular wounds on the nose and the lobes of the ears clearly showed that the knife with which the girl met her death was a curved one. At the inquest no evidence was forthcoming. It could not be ascertained where the girl was actually murdered. I made a thorough search in the neighbourhood of the tank but could find no traces of blood marks,

etc., and therefore could not locate the scene of the crime. The girl was living with her parents at the southern end of the town. Her corpse was found in the tank at the northern end of the town, a distance of over two miles. If the girl had been killed in the neighbourhood of her house there was no necessity for the culprits to carry the corpse such a long distance. The girl was missed from her house in the evening and on the following morning her corpse was found at the other end of the town. This puzzled me and my staff. We hopelessly failed in finding out the place where the girl was actually killed. From the nature of the wounds caused to the girl, it was certain that a pool of blood would have been formed. No clue whatever was forthcoming for some days. In the meantime, I deputed my men to search for all strangers in the town and its suburbs. I sent for all the goldsmiths and gave them orders to inform me of any strangers offering anything for sale, and made it known all over the town that if

any merchant or trader bought anything from a stranger, he would get into trouble. My action in this direction had the desired effect. One morning, six days after the murder, a stranger who offered a courier bag to a Mahomedan shop-keeper, was brought to me. He was dressed neatly and had the appearance of a sepoy. I asked him who he was. He said he was a reserve sepoy drawing a small allowance. I asked him where he got the courier bag from. He said that he purchased it in his regiment and that he was selling it because he did not require it. His replies were very impertinent. I thought he must have stolen the bag. To satisfy myself whether or not he was an old offender, I examined his buttocks to see if they bore any traces of whipping and to my astonishment, I found there were marks of whipping on his buttocks. He then admitted having been convicted in Berhampur in a theft case which, he said, was concocted by the Police. I then commenced catechising him severely. I put him some leading

him where his wife was, he said that she had left for Vizagapatam. I examined his hands to see if he had any wounds on his hands. To my great surprise I found a semi-circular cut in the palm of his hand. It was a cut with a sharp curved knife. This immediately roused my strongest suspicions when I remembered that the cuts on the corpse of the murdered girl were also semi-circular. I asked him how he got the cuts on the palm of his hand. He was not prepared to answer the question. He said that a palmyra leaf cut him. When I told him that it was impossible for a palmyra leaf to cut him, he changed his story and said that he placed his hand on a circular tin in the house of a cantonment prostitute which cut his palm badly. After placing him before the medical officer and obtaining his opinion that the cut was caused by a sharp

curved knife, I proceeded to the cantonment to enquire of the prostitute he named, if the story of the man was true. He pointed out the house of a low woman who admitted the visit of the man but denied that he received the cut in the palm of his hand in the manner described by him. I learnt from this woman that he had been keeping a 'chachadi' woman in the cantonment for some months. This was good news for me. I guessed that this woman might be his so-called wife who accompanied him to Ramatheertham festival on the morning following the murder. I went to her house accompanied by some respectable men. I found her in the house and called her out. I left this suspicious character at a distance of 50 yards in the custody of the Police in full view of the woman. I pointed out the man to her and asked her if she was kept by him. She said that he had been keeping her for the past six months. I asked her if she accompanied him to Ramatheertham festival. She said "yes." I told

her that he made a statement before me disclosing all that he had done on his way to Ramatheertham and that he was already under arrest. If she should make a statement inconsistent with it, she would have the same fate. She then stated that on the night of Sivaratri festival she and her man engaged a cart at the Railway station to take them to Ramatheertham. They left the Railway station at lamp-light. On the way they came across the deceased girl whom he invited to get into the bandy. The girl got into the bandy, which was driven by a boy of 12 years. When the bandy reached the tank by the road side her lover took the knife out of a canvas bag and cut the throat of the girl in the bandy and removed, by cutting off her nose and the lobes of her ears, three gold nose-rings and two ear-rings. He threw the dead body into a tank by the road side. She and the bandy boy were horrified at this brutal act, but could not cry out as they were threatened with instant death if they should reveal this murder to any one.

They then continued their journey to Ramatheertham. On the way he washed away the blood marks on his cloths and his bandy. Relating this story, she produced a curved knife from inside her house and said that it was with it that the murder was committed. This story was a revelation to me. The whole mystery was solved. The murder was committed in the bandy. The woman actually believed that the man related the facts connected with the murder and was in custody and thought it was safe for her to relate the true facts. This woman would never have revealed the real facts if I had not resorted to the dodge of keeping the culprit at a distance in the custody of the Police and made her understand that he had made a clean breast of the whole affair.

Now that the mystery was solved, it was easy for me to sack the murderer. I placed him before her and wanted her to repeat her story in his presence. She unflinchingly repeated the same facts, when he had

no alternative but to confess his guilt. He then made a clean breast of what he had done. The cart was found, and it bore traces of washed out blood marks. The bandy boy corroborated this statement of the woman. The goldsmith who purchased the jewels from the culprits admitted having purchased them and produced the melted gold. There was other circumstantial evidence in the case.

The Judge who tried the case was convinced of the guilt of the culprit and sentenced him to be hanged. But the High Court reversed the sentence and set the prisoner at liberty owing to some improbabilities which the Judge did not explain fully in his Judgment. The Judge wrote a very brief Judgment, which did not satisfy the High Court who judged the case simply by records. The improbabilities in this case were—(1) the commission of the crime in such a daring way in the presence of two persons; (2) the crime was committed while going in a cart on a much frequented road within

two furlongs of a toll gate, and (3) the cart boy and the accused's concubine did not reveal the murder till they were questioned by the Police. These improbabilities were all explained by the prosecution but they were not sufficiently commented upon by the Judge. The Judge closed his Judgment in the following words—"I see no reason to doubt the evidence of the eye witnesses (3 and 5 prosecution witnesses). The third witness is a woman, and the fifth is a youth of 16 years of age. They explained that they did not mention what had occurred because the accused threatened to cut their throats if anything transpired. I considered this a reasonable explanation. There is no reason to doubt the circumstantial evidence as to the accused trying to raise money shortly after the murder on jewels corresponding to those which had been worn by the deceased girl. I find the accused guilty of murder and sentence him to be hanged by the neck until he is dead."

You will find improbabilities in every

case, and you must be prepared to explain them fully, and in the absence of any lucid explanation, the best cases would not stand.

Who is this culprit that committed this brutal murder? He is a K. D. of Rajahmundry with twelve convictions, lurking in Vizianagram Cantonment for some months, but we could not trace this bad character. If this bad character, a stranger in Vizianagram Cantonment, had been found by the Police, this murder could not have been committed.

There has been a tendency on the part of investigating officers to depend to a great extent on 'confessions' for the detection of murders. It can be said that the unnatural tendency on the part of some Criminal Courts to require nothing short of confession before they convict a prisoner, tempts the Police Officer to depend so much on confessions. It is very unfortunate that in the majority of cases where the prisoner makes a confession before the the Police and the committing Magistrates, the trying tribunal generally jumps

to the conclusion that the confession was obtained by improper pressure or inducements. It is seldom that he thinks that the confession was obtained lawfully by the investigating officer by dint of perseverance and skill in weaving round the culprit threads of tangible evidence that induce him to make a clean breast of his guilt. In several cases owing to timidity and simplicity of character, prisoners freely confess their guilt with the hope that they would be more leniently dealt with. Of course such a thing is rare among the more daring lot of criminals. From my experience I could quote perfectly voluntary confessions made by prisoners in several cases. Invariably these confessions are retracted by the prisoners when they stand their trial in the Sessions Courts. Prior to their trial the culprits receive a good deal of teaching from fellow under-trial prisoners in the Jail to plead ill-usage at the hands of the Police. The accused's Counsel also does not fail to tell his client to plead 'not guilty' and to teach him how

to explain away his already recorded confession in the Lower Court as due to Police pressure. Thus it has become a practice for the prisoners to withdraw their confessions and to accuse the Police of ill-treatment. Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, dated 31st July, 1888, No. 1600, Judicial, lays down that “where a confession is really voluntary,—and there is no doubt that the more ignorant classes find it very difficult to conceal their guilt and to maintain an obstinate silence—it is best possible evidence and ought not to be discarded.” Nevertheless some Judges are apt to give no weight to such confessions for they think they are due to ill-treatment or inducement on the part of the investigating officers. It is therefore always safe to refrain from entirely depending upon confessions. You must understand that it is not by confessions that you can make Judges believe your case but only by threads of tangible evidence. The Madras Police Order No. 168 (C) says “that the

Police are directed never to prosecute upon a confession alone however spontaneously given. The only use they should make of admissions made by an accused person is to follow up every clue so given and to establish every fact and circumstance so indicated from other unquestionable sources. It will then make little odds whether the admission is repeated or not."

I shall quote a case which I personally investigated, in which, though there was very strong circumstantial evidence supported by confessions made in the Lower Court and yet as they were retracted in the Sessions Court, I failed to obtain a conviction

One morning in September 1896, in Mindi village, about 7 miles from Vizagapatam, a boy aged 3 years was playing in front of the accused's house and was seen by the boy's father while going to his field. The boy's father returned home within an hour and found the boy had not come home. The father searched everywhere

Mindi
murder case.

for him but without success and in the afternoon, he reported that the boy was missing. He and other people went on searching and most of the villagers sat up all night watching various houses to see that the body of the boy was not introduced into any of the houses or brought out and thrown away. The Village Magistrate reported the disappearance of the boy to the Police Station and the S. H. O. arrived next morning. The boy's father named four persons whom he suspected, one among them being the accused. The houses of the other three were searched without success and finally the prisoner's house was searched. On looking up at the ceiling, blood stains were seen. A ladder was obtained and the boy's father got up into the loft where he found his son's body covered with some palmyra leaves. A pair of ear-rings that he wore was missing. At the time of the search the accused decamped. The accused was a young woman, wife of a salt peon who was living in the factory in another village. The accused

was living alone in her hut with her two children. S. H. O. lost no time in sending information to me. Within two hours I was on the spot. The corpse of the boy was not disturbed from the place where it was discovered pending my arrival. When I approached the scene of the crime, I observed there a large crowd of people, but the accused was not there. She had left her two children behind and decamped. I removed the body from the hut and held the usual inquest. I wanted the accused to be present at the inquest with a view to examine her as to the finding of the corpse of the murdered boy in her house. I offered a reward to the people around me to find her. Within two hours, a man turned up with information that the accused was hiding herself in a big heap of straw. Accompanied by the large crowd of anxious villagers, I went to the heap of straw which was about two miles from the village. To our great amusement, the informant went to the side of the heap and removed some straw and

exposed the woman that was half suffocated. When she saw my face, she spontaneously said that she had killed the child and concealed the body in her hut. She was brought back to the village and the inquest was completed. After she came to the village and was abused by all the villagers for committing this dastardly and brutal act, she became reticent and would not show the place where she buried the stolen property. The next afternoon, some leading villagers including her father-in-law told her that she would be put in jail any way for having killed the child and that she had better say where she had hidden the jewels. She then unearthed them from near a drumstick tree in front of her house. They were identified as belonging to the dead body. The above were the facts proved by ten witnesses.

The Judge who tried this case summed up the case in the following words :—"It will have been seen that the evidence against the prisoner is entirely circum-

stantial and it is necessary therefore to see whether the facts stated are sufficient to prove her guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The strong points against her are the facts the body was found in her house, that she ran away and hid herself when her house was about to be searched, that she produced the jewels and that she made a confession before the committing Magistrate. On the other hand, there are certain gaps appearing in the evidence, which with other circumstances lead me to think that the points above mentioned are not conclusive."

The Judge then enumerated the gaps in the evidence thus :—“(1) In the first place there is not a particle of evidence of the boy having been seen in the prisoner's company. The only evidence which goes near the point is the uncorroborated statement of the boy's father that he saw him playing in front of her house. (2) The next point in prisoner's favour is that there is no evidence that she was in her house at the time the boy disappeared. The fact

that her children were playing outside her house is no proof that she was there. (3) The next point that weakens the case against her is the fact there was admittedly no lock to her door and that it is closed by tying it with a bit of palmyra fibre. It follows that the house is accessible, if the owner happens to be away, to any one who chooses to enter it. (4) Then there is a difficulty as to how the body was put in the loft by the prisoner. The loft is admittedly inaccessible without a ladder of some sort; particularly with a child three years old in her arm. (5) The fact that the prisoner showed the jewels the next day, when she had been in the custody of the Police for more than 24 hours, is not nearly such an important piece of evidence as it at first seems."

On these grounds the Judge decided that there was a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the prisoner and the prisoner was acquitted. During my investigation, all these weak points struck me, but I could not help leaving them as they were for want

of evidence and relied to a great extent on the strong points of the case. The only inference that could be drawn from the facts of this case is that the investigating officer should strive to find out all the weak points of the case however strong the case may be by other evidence and if possible to meet them. I must warn you at the same time against introducing any unhealthy evidence into the case. The prisoner in this case made at first a confession before the committing Magistrate under Section 164, Cr. P. C., the second time when her statement was taken under Section 209, Cr. P. C., and the third time when the Magistrate charged the prisoner under Section 210, Cr. P. C., while committing the case to the Sessions Court. These confessions were repeated from time to time. It will be seen by my readers what weight the Judge gave to these confessions corroborated as they were by strong circumstantial evidence. They were rejected simply because the prisoner retracted the confessions. I do not mean

that all such cases will share the same fate. I have simply quoted this case to warn you against any over-reliance which you may feel on confessions to procure conviction in murder cases.

CHAPTER VIII.

COUNTERFEIT-COINING.

COUNTERFEIT-COINING has of late become so common that it attracted the serious attention of Government who appointed some special officers some time back to make a thorough investigation. To investigate these cases, a special knowledge is required; but what I give in these pages is but a brief account of what I learnt from different sources, for I have not had many opportunities of dealing with such cases.

Counterfeit coins are of two kinds, *viz.*, cast or struck. The former is made of base metal and the latter of silver. The following hints may be useful in determining counterfeit coins:—

“(1) Examine the general surface of the coin to ascertain if it has a brassy or leaden appearance.

(2) With a magnifying glass carefully examine the coin. If it is a

cast coin it will generally be found to be pitted, more especially on the reverse. The fine lines of the design will usually be found to be less sharp than those on a genuine coin. The lens will also sometimes reveal that the mould has given away in places and has caused excrescences.

- (3) *Milling*.—If this should appear not to be at right angles to the coin and the spaces are not equidistant, it will indicate that the coin is a counterfeit one.
- (4) The touchstone test in practised hands is a very reliable one.
- (5) Ringing the coin in comparison with a genuine coin is also useful.
- (6) Weigh the coin. Counterfeits are, as a rule, much lighter than genuine coins.
- (7) Ascertain the specific gravity. If the coin registers below 10·0, it

is almost certainly a counterfeit and if it only registers 9·5 it is undoubtedly one.

(8) Assay the coin. 'This is the only reliable test.'

The implements used in manufacturing cast coins are the following:—A mould of some particular clay, an iron spoon, a pair of pincers, a small knife, a small file, and some chemical preparation for giving the coins a more natural appearance. These are the things which false coiners generally carry about with them. The cast counterfeit coins are generally made by Mahomedan coiners, known as *Chapperbunds* hailing from the Bijapur District of the Bombay Presidency. They are professional manufacturers of counterfeit cast coins. These Chapperbunds leave their homes soon after the Moharam festival in parties of more than four composed of male members only, on their annual excursion that lasts over a year. They are generally accompanied by smart young boys who are specially trained

in passing the counterfeit coins. One member of each party is an expert manufacturer of false coins and the rest pass them into circulation. They usually wear salmon-colored pugris and carry beads and are able to personate Mahomedan fakirs or Hindu mendicants, as occasion may require. They say that they come from the direction of Hyderabad and give false names and residence. They carry a bag with numerous secret pockets in which they keep materials for making moulds. When out on an expedition, they live under trees in some of the outlying villages. They manufacture coins a day or two before they pass them. The method generally adopted by the Chapperbunds to pass coins is as follows:—The culprit visits a house and asks for alms which he receives. He pretends to be tired and sits on the pial of his victim's house. He pours the contents of his bag comprising silver and copper coins and explains he had received a large number of coppers by begging, and as it would be

a nuisance to carry them he offers to give them in exchange for silver at 17 annas per rupee. Cupidity induces the victim to take the copper in exchange for silver at the rate quoted. A rupee change is accordingly counted out and the victim hands over a rupee to the culprit and receives the coppers. The culprit receives the rupee and by sleight of hand—an art in which the culprit is an adept—changes the genuine rupee in the twinkling of an eye into a counterfeit one and says the rupee is an old one and refuses to take it. The victim, not suspecting anything wrong, offers another, which is also treated in the same way and so on until the patience of his victim is exhausted. The culprit then leaves his victim and goes on his way. In many cases the victims find out the fraud not till several days after the culprit has left the village. Some daring culprits do not even lose their coppers when passing their counterfeit coins. After they pass some counterfeit coins, in the manner described above, they

gather up their coppers and leave their victims saying they would rather keep the coppers than exchange them with bad silver coins which the victims produce. In such cases the suspicions of the victims are aroused with the result that the culprits are soon after arrested. The method of manufacturing counterfeit coins by the Fakir coiners is described by Major Gunthorpe in his notes on Criminal tribes. "The mould is made of a kind of earth called by them 'Siddee Pait Muttee.' This is pounded very fine and worked to a proper consistency with water. A rupee is covered with this prepared earth and well pressed on all sides, and, to take the impression better, it is further tapped all round with a flat piece of wood. A cut is then made through it going along the edge of the rupee and a small hole made in the side of the mould, wedge-shaped, to admit of the melted metal being poured in. A mark is also made across the cut mentioned above to admit of the mould being correctly fixed when ready. The

lump of clay is now wrapped over with several layers of rag. A thick coating of clay is put over this again and the whole lump is placed in the fire. When the mould is considered sufficiently baked, the outer layer of clay and the rags are removed, the mould opened and the rupee taken out and it is complete. The two pieces are put together and the melted substance poured in (this is generally pewter). The false rupee is taken out and perfected by the hand with the small knife and is then ready for passing."

In the year 1903 I came across a coiner whom I arrested in Vizianagram and whose *modus operandi* in passing the coins differed from that of the ordinary Chapperbund. A party of three arrived at the Vizianagram Railway Station by the evening mail and one of them commenced his operations immediately he arrived at the Railway Station. While passing the counterfeit coins amongst some villagers who happened to pass by the Railway Station, he was suspected

and caught. As it was late in the evening, his two comrades decamped and were never discovered. The *modus operandi* of this man was as follows:—He told his victim that he had just arrived at the Railway Station and wanted change for a rupee. He gave his victim a ‘Jodhpur’ rupee which of course was rejected on the ground of its not being current in these parts. He asked his victim to show a rupee current in these parts—this requisition being made in entreating and respectful language, the victim gave a rupee which the culprit respectfully took into his hands and by a clever pass of the hand, changed it for a counterfeit coin. He pretended to examine the rupee curiously and handed it back to the victim with many thanks. The victim received back the coin and at once detected the fraud. One of my informers who happened to be near the Railway Station, went to the spot and on learning this fraud laid hold of the culprit saying he was a Policeman in plain clothes. The

culprit was soon brought to me. He would not admit his offence and pleaded that an innocent traveller had been wrongly arrested. I sent his Finger Prints to all the Bureaux in India with the result that he was traced by Rajputana Bureau as a coiner. The culprit was a Marwadi-looking man hailing from Rajputana. All efforts to trace this man's village proved futile. But by dint of perseverance, I traced the gang of this culprit to Tharkassur, Hooghly District, Bengal. This class of people cannot be easily detected. They look like Marwadi merchants going on a pilgrimage. They camp in choultries in the heart of towns where, in a few days, they do a lot of work and continue their onward journey. They make a very good use of the facilities the Railway affords. I believe this class of people are few, but their operations extend over a large extent of country. Their method of manufacturing false coins is exactly the same as that of Chapperbunds.

I now come to struck counterfeit coins.

No useful purpose could be served by describing the method of manufacturing these coins. As a rule, no ordinary coiner can manufacture them. The struck coins are made of silver and struck from steel dies. Struck coins are not easily detected by ordinary folk. The appearance of the coins and their sound when rung does not easily raise suspicion. It is only when they fall into the hands of men who are practised in testing rupees, the counterfeit struck silver coins can be detected. Whenever struck coins are found in circulation, immediate intimation should be made to the Criminal Intelligence Department officers who are the persons fit for such special work. Manufacturing coins by dies has more far-reaching consequences. It is quite different from the base coin made from moulds. Any number of coins can be struck from steel dies, whereas only a few coins can be made from moulds just sufficient for passing them for a few days. But the manufacture of struck coins is a

dangerous game that requires very serious notice.

Whenever counterfeit cast coins are in circulation in a station range, it is a sure sign that some Chapperbunds are operating in the neighbourhood. A search should be made at once throughout all the villages in the station range and the villages belonging to the neighbouring stations. Such a search is sure to be rewarded with the discovery of the culprits. Whenever struck coins are found in circulation, very careful enquiry should be made, with the object of locating the villages or towns from where the struck coins have come. It is only by dint of perseverance that one could hope to trace the coiners. Struck silver coins are known to be made in the Bombay Presidency in the Native States. They find their way to other parts of India.

CHAPTER IX.

CHEATING.

CULPRITS whose minds are criminally bent and who are incapable of committing the more daring crimes resort to milder means like cheating persons of their property. Sections 417 to 420, I. P. C., provide for the punishment of these crimes. Under the old Cr. P. C., all these cases were non-cognizable with the result that the Police did not take any notice of these cases. Since the Law has been amended by the new Cr. P. C. Act of 1898 and cases coming under Section 419, and 420, I. P. C., have become cognizable, the number of cases of cheating has considerably dwindled down, for the culprits know that investigation could be started without cost or trouble to the parties injured. The offence of cheating as defined in Section 415, I. P. C., generally includes the offences punishable under Section 420, I. P. C., and the illustrations to Section 415, I. P. C., are of acts which

are offences under Section 420, I. P. C. ; and whenever cheating is accompanied by delivery of property, it should be dealt with under Section 420, I. P. C., cognizable by the Police. A Police Officer can therefore render help in all cases in which the persons are cheated of their property. No special skill or detective ability is required to work out these cases. There will be always abundant evidence to prove the cases and a number of clues that could be easily followed.

The means resorted to by an ordinary cheat are very simple. He watches the house of a man who goes to the ' bazaar ' to make purchases. He runs to the bazaar at once and buys some vegetables and reaches the house before the arrival of his victim and delivers the vegetables in the name of the victim and asks for a brass vessel for ghee which he pretends the victim has bought. The vessel is soon given and the culprit decamps with it. The victim comes home and is told the sad tale, and he does not think it

worth his while to take action. The culprit continues to carry on this game with comparative impunity. It could be said that if those who were deceived did not think it worth their while to take action, it would not be worth their while for the Police to set the Law in motion. Nevertheless, it is the duty of the Police to put a stop to such a rascally trade. In all cases of cheating of this sort, the culprits can be easily run to earth by prompt action.

An interesting case of cheating occurred some time back. A man saw an old woman with some jewels on her person in the street. He followed her and accosted her as his dear old mother and said that she was an exact image of his deceased mother and burst into tears. He said that while he was away in the 'bazaar' to purchase a cloth for his mother, she breathed her last and since then, she was regularly appearing in his dreams asking for the said cloth. Now that by chance he found an exact image

of his deceased mother, he would like to purchase a cloth and present it to her. The old woman consented to receive the present. He took her to the nearest cloth shop and introduced her to the shop-keeper as his dear old mother. Before going to the shop, he enjoined her to hold her tongue while striking a bargain with the shop-keeper. The culprit asked the shop-keeper to select a valuable cloth for his mother. A selection was soon made and a bargain was struck. Then with the permission of the shop-keeper, he left the shop with the cloth to get it valued by other shop-keepers, leaving the old woman behind in the shop. The culprit did not turn up again. The old woman was questioned about him and she related the circumstances under which she was brought there. Victimized thus, the shop-keeper did not make any noise about it lest he should become the laughing stock of his fellow tradesmen, with the result that the culprit was never brought to book.

Innumerable are the ways which the cheats adopt to earn their living at the expense of others ; some years back when I was at Vizianagram, a series of cheating cases were reported to me. The *modus operandi* of the cheat was very simple. His good appearance gave him an air of respectability, which enabled him to commit cheating with great ease. He went to the market and made some purchases so that his bill came up to some rupees and odd annas. He asked the merchant to send his servant to carry his things along with him. He then told the merchant he had no change at home and took in cash the balance of annas to make up the bill into a round figure (of rupees) which he promised to send by the shop-keeper's servant. Accompanied by the servant, the culprit went to a distant street and stood in front of a big house, the front doors of which were shut. He gently knocked at the door but received no reply. He then left the servant at the front door saying he would get into the

house by the back door. The servant remained there for some time and when the door opened, he asked the inmates of the house about the culprit. Having learnt that no purchases had been made by any one in the house, he repaired to his master and related the manner in which he was fleeced.

This ingenious rogue committed a series of such crimes which were duly reported to me. I at once concluded that a stranger had come into the town. A search was soon made with the result that he was found in an opium den and was identified as the culprit. His finger prints disclosed that he was an old hand in this art. He soon had his merited punishment.

A new variety of the confidence trick has become very common in rural parts and several ignorant villagers have fallen victims through cupidity. Two men provide themselves with some gilt brass pieces looking like beaten gold direct from the goldsmith's anvil. They select an unfrequented place on a public road for

their operations. When they see a solitary wayfarer with jewels on his person, they emerge from their rendezvous and pretend to arrive from opposite directions. They commence disputing about the ownership of the so-called gold piece—weighing about 10 tolas which they pretend to have discovered on the road. Each man contends that it is he that first discovered it. Apparently they burst into violent altercation, when the solitary traveller turns up. Both the men plead their claim to the find and ask him to give his impartial decision. The referee examines the gold piece. An irresistible desire to possess it seizes him. The culprits pretend to be ignorant of the value of the gold piece and query the wayfarer about it. They pretend that they have no means of dividing the property between themselves and offer a suggestion that they would be pleased to take the ear-rings of the umpire in exchange for the gold piece. The avaricious man readily accepts the offer, delivers the ear-rings and takes the gold piece. The

culprits divide the ear-rings between themselves and leave the place, gloating on their success. The dupe secures the gold piece in his cloth, hastens to the village goldsmith to make jewels for himself and his wife. The goldsmith soon exposes the fraud.

Such cases are rarely reported to the Police by victims for fear of their cupidity being exposed. In some cases of this kind, the victims make false reports concerning their nature. Generally with a view to getting Police help promptly, they report that they were waylaid and deprived of their jewels by force. Such cases have to be investigated with great caution. Absence of violent marks on the person of the complainant is a clue that will lead you to the right conclusion.

Some swindlers pose as magicians and exorcists. They gain admission into the houses of rich persons. They secure their confidence by narrating the incidents of their past life—a knowledge which they obtain by making confidential enquiries

before they approach the parties. They select those men in whose houses there are women who are supposed to be possessed. On being asked to help them to drive the devil out of their house, they generally select a lonely room in a house to make 'poojah.' Very often they talk of the uncertainty of wealth and they give out that they are not actuated by any mercenary motives to render help to the people and that they are strictly enjoined by the 'gurus' not to receive any such assistance from those who seek their help. Having thus preached their hatred of worldly gains, they commence making 'poojah' in the selected room, having previously established there an idol adorned with valuable jewels. No one except the magician is to be admitted into the room. The idol is daily worshipped, the door of the room closed and the key is given to the owner of the house who is given strict instructions not to go into the room. The rogue continues to worship the idol for a few days and suddenly

disappears. When the owner's suspicion is aroused, he opens the 'poojah' room only to find that the jewels on the idol have disappeared with the culprit. A very serious case of this nature occurred some years back in the Kistna district and property worth about Rs. 30,000 and odd was seized in Vizagapatam in 1903.

Cheating by forged Goods Railway receipts and obtaining advances of money from merchants on false representations have of late become very common. The *modus operandi* is very simple. The culprit secures a blank goods receipt book. He forges a receipt purporting to have been received from a well-known merchant doing business in a distant town invoicing some valuable goods. Armed with this, he goes to merchants and applies for advances at a high interest on the security of goods mentioned in the receipt. The culprit decamps after receiving the money. The victimized merchant goes to the Railway station to learn the sad tale how he has been deceived by a forged railway receipt.

A few cases of cheating by false personation in connection with telegraphic money orders have recently come to light. This class of crime is committed by the more intelligent swindlers. The *modus operandi* of the case is as follows:—The impostor meets a well-dressed man proceeding on a pilgrimage and worms himself into his confidence and obtains information regarding his native place, etc. After a few days, he telegraphs in the name of the pilgrim to his relations for remittance by telegraphic money order, explaining that he has been robbed of his money on the way. The impostor awaits the arrival of the telegraphic money order at the office to receive the money. The impostor decamps with the money and the fraud is only discovered when the pilgrim returns home.

As has already been said, no special tact is necessary for investigating these crimes. Patience and the steady following up of clues will lead to the discovery of the criminals. The more prominent

methods of cheating now prevalent have been described here so that the junior officers may know what kind of cheating cases they will have to deal with.

CHAPTER X.

ARSON.

Not a few of the fires registered by the Police as accidental are really acts of incendiarism. From the seriousness of the crime and the difficulties that beset the Police Officer in detecting cases of this kind, he is often tempted to hush up their real nature, thereby leading to disastrous results. Encouraged by the gross apathy shown by the Police in such cases, the incendiary continues his nefarious practice to the great consternation of the people. This accounts for the large number of fires that are registered in a station range. When such is the case in a town or village it must be presumed that something is wrong and a thorough investigation is necessary.

As these crimes are generally committed during the silent hours of the night and without the aid of accomplices, it is next to impossible to detect them. As a rule, the culprit does not leave behind

any clue which can be advantageously followed by a Police Officer. In all these cases, the proof of criminality can only be obtained by direct evidence or strong circumstantial evidence. It is fortunate that in this country there are no professional incendiaries. The man bent on mischief generally approaches a house in the middle of a night and sets fire to it by means of a match or by thrusting a bundle of rags containing live-charcoal into the eaves. The latter mode is generally adopted as it gives the culprit time to remove himself to a distance by the time the house is on fire and thus be able to set up an *alibi* in case he is discovered.

The motives for committing these crimes are (1) Revenge ; (2) Jealousy ; (3) Pecuniary benefit. The majority of these belong to the first class. In these cases information could be obtained from the complainants who should be catechised carefully as to the circumstances which led to the commission of the offence and the persons who are supposed to be the

culprits. Any such information should be received with great caution. The next thing you have to do is to find out whether the suspected persons did anything or left behind any of their articles such as clothing, etc., on or about the time of the commission of the offence that would throw any light on the crime. Though in the majority of cases, the Police Officer may fail to obtain evidence sufficient to establish the guilt of the culprit, he may rest assured that his promptitude will deter the criminal from repeating the offence with impunity.

Setting fire to houses through jealousy should be investigated on the same lines as above. Crimes committed with a pecuniary object need a different treatment. In these cases, the culprit sets fire to his own property that he has previously insured to secure the sum for which it is insured. Cases of this kind are very rare in rural parts. In such cases, the fact that the property destroyed has been insured will afford you a clue.

The following incident which happened some years ago in the town of Bimlipatam may be read with interest. At noon one day, a fire broke out in the fishermen's quarters, resulting in the destruction of all their huts. At the time, many of the fishermen were away fishing in the sea. On their return they found that their huts had been completely destroyed. They were informed by their women that the onlookers gave them no help in extinguishing the fire. This caused much dissatisfaction amongst the fishermen. The fire was found to be accidental. Soon after this fire, rumours were in the air that similar fires would break out every Tuesday at noon for some weeks. True to this rumour, the top of a thatched house in another corner of the town was noticed to be on fire followed by the same disastrous results. This caused great consternation among the town people. The fire was attributed to the anger of the local goddess for the simple reason that these fires invariably took place on

Tuesday, the day dedicated to this deity, and the fishermen went about saying that unless the goddess was propitiated, the fires would not cease.

But I did not accept this explanation. I was very anxious to get a clue, however slender, that would unravel this mysterious affair; and with that end in view I made a most patient and exhaustive enquiry; but my efforts were of no avail.

The third Tuesday was approaching. The excitement had become intense. The rumour of this extraordinary fire was spreading far and wide. The appointed day at last came. People living in thatched houses were almost excited to a frenzy and stood watching their houses with great anxiety. The mysterious fire again broke out. This time it was noticed on the top of a thatched house in another corner of the town with the same ruinous results.

These fires following one another in such quick succession completely upset me. I was puzzled. Police inefficiency

was the subject of general talk amongst the more refined classes of people. The people generally believed the fires to be the action of the local goddess. Whether the fires were wilful incendiarism or the result of accident, I had no means to determine ; but I was inclined to believe that it was the result of the former. With this supposition I set to work. The first fire was noticed in the eaves of a low thatched house. There was every possibility of its catching fire by accident, but the last two fires had been observed to issue from the tops of the houses. This fact precluded the idea of the fire being accidental. This was a mystery to be solved. I exerted all my faculties in trying to get some clue that would serve to guide me in unravelling the mystery.

During my enquiries, an important fact arrested my attention. In the quarters of the fishermen, there were whispers that they had been successful in invoking the aid of the local goddess who had rightly

punished the people of the town. They were gloating over their success. This served me as a clue. It was possible that the fishermen were the cause of these fires. I was completely in the dark as to the way in which the houses were set on fire. I made up my mind to tax the fishermen as the originators of these fires. I set men to watch the fishermen with the result that the expected fire did not break out on the following Tuesday. I took the same precautions reaping equally good results.

But the knotty question as to how these fires originated remained for some time unsolved. It was after several months with the assistance of a friend that I was able to solve the question. The last two fires were caused by one of the fishermen who had resorted to an exceedingly clever mode of incendiarism which was believed to be as follows:— He took a piece of coir rope, lighted one of its ends, and tied a small fish to the other end. With this he ventured into

the street full of thatched huts at midday when the sun was very hot and a heavy breeze was blowing. He dropped the fish on the ground near a thatched house. Immediately a crow picked it up and alighted on the top of the house. The fire in the coir rope touched the thatch and fanned by the breeze blazed up. The author of these crimes was never discovered. Though I failed to trace him, my work in putting a stop to the fires gave me immense pleasure. This ingenious mode of setting houses on fire may however guide young Police Officers in detecting such acts of incendiarism.

CHAPTER XI.

BAD CHARACTERS.

SPOTTING bad characters in his station range is one of the most important duties of a Police Officer. If this duty is properly performed, it will lead to the detection of many cases.

For this purpose, you must acquire complete local knowledge of all bad characters in your station range, and in the neighbouring stations. You must have, at least, one informer in each street of the town or village who can keep you informed of all that takes place in that street or village. You should invariably send men to choultries, liquor and toddy shops, opium smoking dens, brothels, etc., to see if any strangers have arrived. When you walk, ride, or halt, your eyes must always be directed towards strange and suspicious characters. When you come across any suspicious strangers, inquire about their antecedents, and if their answers are not

satisfactory, take their finger prints and send them on to the finger print Bureau.

Several bad characters lurk in large towns, securing employment as servants in the houses of respectable wealthy men. They manage to obtain such service under a cloak of honesty by producing some false credentials as to their honesty and suddenly decamp with whatever valuable property they could lay their hands on. The more daring lot of criminals prolong their stay for some time in the remotest parts of the town without exciting the least suspicion of their master or acquaintances. Invariably such men would make friends with the local receivers of stolen property to facilitate its disposal. They take particular care in securing the confidence of their masters to seek their help when involved in trouble. They generally do not commit crime in their master's house.

In all cases where crimes are committed in respectful households and where an outside thief cannot commit crime without the aid or connivance of some one in the

house, it can be safely presumed that there is some bad character working as a servant in the house. I have come across several such bad characters. I shall give you an interesting incident which may be instructive to you. In the year 1900, several burglaries were reported in Vizianagram in succession. The *modus operandi* of the crimes was the same and suggested that the crimes were committed by one and the same person. I at once concluded that a professional burglar had temporarily taken his residence in the town. I caused a thorough search to find the stranger but without avail. As a rule, bad characters visit grog shops and houses of prostitutes. My enquiries in the grog shops resulted in nothing. I then took a census of all the well known prostitutes in the town and made enquiries about the men who visited their houses. The result was that I came across a Brahmin cook, a loose fish. He kept a woman and spent a lot of money in drink. He had no house to live in. He was employed in a respectable rich gentle-

man's house as a cook. A search of his concubine's house resulted in my finding several stolen articles. His concubine gave out that the cook kept those things in her house. This man made a clean breast of what crimes he had committed during his stay in the town. He gave information which led to the recovery of property concerned in six cases. The arrest of this culprit caused a good deal of commotion amongst the people who had employed him. His master was surprised that such a seemingly honest servant of his should turn out to be such a rogue with several previous convictions. This man was traced to be a K. D. of the Ganjam district. I enquired into his past history and learnt that previous to his taking service in Vizianagram, he was employed in the house of a high official in Vizagapatam. On a reference to the list of undetected cases of the neighbouring Divisions, I discovered that the house of this official was broken into and property consisting of valuable silk cloths was

stolen. When questioned about this crime, the culprit admitted having committed it and showed the persons with whom he had pledged the stolen property. The culprit while giving this information to me, laughingly said that he managed to keep the Police off the scent for a considerable time and gave me credit for thus laying him by the heels. There is some truth in the culprit's statement. If proper enquiries were made at the first instance in Vizagapatam, the culprit who was employed as a cook in the house at that time, would have been detected there and then only.

Bad characters of different provinces are at present making a very good use of the facilities offered by the Railway. They start in the disguise of religious mendicants, known as Sadhus, and freely travel all over India. These men are a very dangerous lot. In the year 1899, a gang of these so-called Sadhus of Northern India visited Vizagapatam district, and committed a series of heavy burglaries and

decamped to their country without exciting the least suspicion of their real nature and habits. When these burglaries took place, we directed our attention to the local known depredators, but in vain.

After several months we received a communication from the Rajputana Police to the effect that one of the gang who had visited this District made a clean breast of their doings in the District for the simple reason that he was not given a proper share of the stolen property. He also gave a graphic account of their expedition to our District (Vizagapatam). This piece of information put all of us in the District to utmost discomfiture, inasmuch as we hopelessly failed in our most important duty of spotting bad characters.

Since this incident took place, we have opened our eyes and kept a keen eye over all Sadhus of Northern India. One afternoon in September 1901, I accidentally met a Sadhu and found a sinister look about him. When he saw me, he showed signs of uneasiness, and I called him

and took him to my room in the Police Station. I examined his personal marks and took his height. Then I took some files of Police Gazettes and was turning page after page to make him understand that I was searching the Gazette to find out his name in it. I suddenly stopped and said that I found his description there. I taxed him with being an escaped criminal. The man displayed such abject terror that he blurted out a confession that he had accidentally killed his wife at Ranchi, in the Bengal Presidency, and had run away to evade justice. This was a surprise to me. I at once wired to the Ranchi Police, who wired to me that the man had murdered his wife six months back and bolted. The criminal was sent to Ranchi, where he had his merited punishment. The Bengal Police gave me a suitable reward for his arrest. It was a strange chance that led to this result; but chance is an element in the lives of all of us and he who knows how to recognize and make the most of his chances

succeeds where others fail. I give this instance to impress upon your mind the necessity of noting and spotting all suspicious strangers. Do not mind failures. I assure you that if you do this branch of important duty properly, you will be a success in the department. From my experience, I should tell you that by doing so I traced many bad characters loitering in my division limits, and successfully prosecuted them all under security sections.

In this connection it is important to remark that in all cases where a bad character falls into the hands of the Police and appears to be a member of a criminal gang, every attempt should be made to trace the gang to which he belongs. This is only possible if any clues obtained are advantageously followed up with due perseverance. In 1903 I arrested a false coiner at Vizianagram with the result that he was sent to jail under security sections. While he was in the District Jail, Mr. Fawcett, who was then on special

duty with regard to coining cases, came to the District on a visit and on seeing the man in Vizagapatam District Jail, ordered me to continue my enquiries with regard to this man's gang. Though I left no stone unturned, I was for a considerable time not successful in my endeavours. In the meanwhile, I resorted to a stratagem, *viz.*, of seeking the help of a Mohammedan quack doctor, to whom all Sadhus from different places went for medicine, and getting him to give me news regarding the arrival of any new suspicious Sadhus. I naturally expected that one of the convict's gang would appear on the scene as soon as he had worked out his term of imprisonment, and, true to my expectation, a friend of his turned up. This news reached me through the Mohammedan doctor. On finding the man, I interviewed him and made him understand that unless he produced credentials as to his good conduct he would be treated with suspicion. In the meantime the quack doctor appeared on the scene and offered to produce the

same on his behalf and took him home. The stranger least suspected that I was in touch with the doctor. The stranger mentioned to him that one Asuram, by name, at Tharkasur, Hooghly District, should be written to in private for getting his credentials, and that the Police should not be informed of his name and address. This piece of information put me on the scent. In the name of the stranger, Asuram, apparently a member of the gang, was communicated with. On ascertaining Asuram's whereabouts, I communicated with my D. S. P. who wired to D. S. P., Hooghly, to arrest Asuram. The Sub-Inspector of Tharkasur, who was deputed by the D. S. P., Hooghly, searched Asuram's house and arrested him. The search was eminently successful in that coining materials were discovered in abundance. Asuram's comrades were with him. The Sub-Inspector foolishly let them abscond. I proceeded to the place after hearing this and having rendered the necessary help only got Asuram convicted

under security sections. There was no trace of the others. The man arrested at Vizagapatam was traced by F. P. Bureau of Rajputana as a coiner and sent to jail under the security sections.

This incident distinctly shows that the arrest of one of a gang must lead to the discovery of others and how important it is to make all possible enquiries to trace a criminal gang, and how the slightest relaxation of effort would result in the escape of several members of a criminal gang.

CHAPTER XII.

RECOVERY OF STOLEN PROPERTY.

IN ALL cases of offences against property, the recovery of the stolen property is the most important branch of Police work. The culprits of the present day have considerably improved their methods of disposing of stolen property. The local K. Ds have receivers to assist them. Immediately a crime is committed and it is known to have been committed by local K. Ds you should at once direct your attention to the local receivers of stolen property. In heavy burglaries committed by professionals of other places you must promptly send your men in different directions making free use of the Railway, and if you succeed in tracing them, you will most probably find the property with them. When criminal gangs commit crimes, they scatter themselves in different directions in small parties and join at the appointed place. Some bury the stolen

property not far from the town or village where they commit the crime. This would not be removed till after the Police vigilance has abated. Some send the stolen property through a single woman who accompanies the gang on their expedition, and this woman manages to travel a long way without exciting the suspicion of any one. Wandering criminal gangs generally do not carry the stolen property in their baggage or on their persons, but bury the stolen property at their camping place. When they move to another camping place, they go there without the stolen property. After halting a day or two at the new camping place, one important member of the gang slips away secretly from the gang, unearths the property, and takes it to his new camp where he buries it. Several times I searched the baggage of these gangs, and caused their persons to be searched but no property of any kind was found on them. When I charged them under security sections a few days afterwards, they paid

large fees to the Vakils to defend them. It is a most difficult task to recover stolen property from criminal gangs, and it is only by unwearied perseverance and tact you can succeed in doing so. The movements of every member of a suspected gang should be carefully watched. The female members sometimes conceal the stolen property on their persons. Whenever you happen to search a female member of a gang you must give full instructions to the woman who searches her. The best way is to keep the woman in an enclosed space, having taken the precautions required by law to safeguard her modesty. Let the woman who is to search her, enter the enclosure with a new cloth and ask the woman to take off her cloth and put on the new one. The woman's cloth must be brought out and carefully examined if any stolen articles are stitched into it. It is difficult to find them out unless you carefully examine every portion of the cloth which is very often full of old patches. After this,

her whole person should be very carefully searched. The hair knots should be examined. In several cases the women conceal property in their mouths and hair knots. I remember a case in which a woman concealed the stolen jewels in her hair knot and challenged the Police Officers to find them out. This woman was accused of a theft of jewels, and she admitted having stolen them. The S. H. O. got her person searched in the usual way, and no stolen property was found. The prisoner was an educated woman, and, while on remand, she challenged the S. H. O. to find out the stolen jewels. The poor S. H. O. was outwitted, and begged her to deliver the property without giving any more trouble. With a triumphant laugh she opened her big hair knot, took the jewels from it, and delivered them to the S. H. O. I simply give this amusing incident so that you may remember what amount of care and precaution you have to take even in such small matters. I have already given you

an instance of a woman in Gajapatina-gram dacoity case, concealing a gold waist string in a net bag tied round her thigh.

I had a case in which a lad of 14 years swallowed a 5-franc piece which he had stolen and passed it in his stools without a purgative. 'Pachapus,' professional pick-pockets, and some Railway thieves resort to this mode of making the stolen articles vanish when caught red-handed.

In 1904 I had another interesting case. An Assistant Surgeon, a Bengali, came to Waltair for a change. He engaged an Uriya cook from Ganjam. One evening, the Baboo missed a wrist watch and a chain, left hanging on the wall. The watch chain was a gilt one. The cook mistaking it for a gold one stole the watch and chain and swallowed them. The Baboo soon found the watch and chain missing and taxed the cook with the theft as no one else could have committed the offence. The Police were called in. The cook confessed having swallowed them. This surprised the owner and the S. H. O.

The accused was placed before me. He made the same statement. I removed all fear of Police from him and asked him to speak the truth. He stuck to his old statement and informed me that it was not the first time he had performed such a feat. He could easily pass them out if a good dose of castor oil was given him. I felt his gullet which was soft and big. He was taken to the hospital and was given a good dose of castor oil which had the desired effect. True to his word he passed both the chain and watch separately in his stools after 48 hours. The former had lost its gilt and the latter was discoloured. The great feat of the cook surprised many, and some of them, inexperienced in such matters, whispered that it was a concoction on the part of the Police. This thing happened in the Vizagapatam hospital and several men were present at the time when the prisoner passed the swallowed articles in his stools. A photograph of the watch and chain in question is given in page 117 of the

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In the course of the investigation of crimes, you will come across bad characters of various temperaments and each man is to be dealt with according to his individual susceptibilities and then only you can have a fair chance of detecting crimes. At times you must pretend to fall in with their views and modes of life. You must previously learn all about each man's individual susceptibility before approaching him with the view of fishing information out of him regarding the crime under investigation. You must completely throw him off the scent as to your ulterior motives for making yourself familiar with him. In short, you must occasionally act a part and worm out information from the culprit who should not be given room to think that your ulterior object in making friends with him is to bring him to book. With these tactics you must commence to grapple with the crime under investigation and if you do so, you have a fair

chance of success. To illustrate this, I quote an interesting case which may be instructive to my readers. In the year 1895 when I joined Vizianagram Division newly, I happened to find that several thefts of jewels on the persons of school boys were reported during the Dusserah festival. Several school boys wearing valuable jewels missed their jewels from their persons while they were out singing Dusserah songs. This struck me as very strange. It was a fact that some pick-pockets and other bad characters visited this large town, the head-quarters of my Division, during Dusserah festival, the last days of which attracted large crowds. I wanted to put a stop to these thefts which caused much uneasiness to many a parent. My confidential enquiries in the town led me to conclude that many of the pial schoolmasters were men of character sullied with infamous vices. When the Dusserah festival came, I took the precaution of previously warning the pial schoolmasters about thefts of jewels

of school boys and made them understand that any loss of them would be attributed to their negligence. I advised the masters not to allow any parents to deck their children with valuable jewels unless they send a servant to look after them. This action of mine had the desired effect. No thefts were reported during the festival and the single exception was what occurred under peculiar circumstances. On the last but one day of the Dusserah feast, a Kshatriya boy of three years lost a pair of gold bangles and chains from his wrists. He was too young to say how the jewels were removed. This theft was promptly reported to me. I took up the case with greatest interest since it occurred despite all the precautions I had taken to prevent thefts of that nature. The first thing I did was to ascertain the antecedents of his schoolmaster. I learnt that he was a man of loose morals. He was a frequent visitor of dancing girls' houses. He was also in the habit of taking an electuary of *ganja* in the evening. During the investigation

of the case, I made my acquaintance with him and applied for his assistance in detecting the case. He offered to give me information about the perpetrators of the crime. I engaged him as my arch informant. I acted a very studied part with him with the result that I became one of his thickest friends within a few hours. He was proud of his having become my intimate friend. I pretended to fall in with him in all his ideas and doings. One moonlight night I asked him to go out for a stroll. We strolled for an hour or so in the spacious park under a bright moon and our intimacy increased by leaps and bounds. We then wended our way through the narrow streets of the town. My companion led me to a solitary house, where he said inadvertently that he had spent a large amount on its inmate. I took up the clue and concluded that he had spent the stolen property there ; when we went there we found the door was shut. He knocked at the door and the door was soon opened.

I stepped in unceremoniously and closed the door against my friend. I lost no time in obtaining the necessary information. He had given her 50 Rs. in cash and 50 Rs. in cloths. I then opened the door and admitted my friend. He was taken by surprise when confronted with the information I had gathered against him. He confessed that he had stolen the jewels from the person of the boy. He sold the jewels for Rs. 100 and odd to a goldsmith in the town and spent the money on his favourite pastimes. The outcome was that my so-called friend had to spend a jolly good three months in prison for this offence.

There has been a tendency on the part of inexperienced Police Officers to arrest persons on the slightest suspicion of their having been concerned in crimes. Such action serves no useful purpose. In such cases, the culprits are kept under remand for 15 days during Police investigation. On the expiration of this remand, the culprits are released for want of

sufficient evidence to charge-sheet them. No further action is taken and the result is that the culprits afterwards find ample opportunity to dispose of stolen property at their leisure. It is always advisable to refrain from arresting a culprit till you secure sufficient evidence to bowl him over completely. If subsequently he is found in possession of stolen property he generally accuses the Police of having foisted the said property on him and this story is easily believed by the public. If he is at large, he will be tempted to dispose of the stolen property or at least to unearth or to watch where it is secreted and you will have ample opportunity to observe his movements and arrest him just in the nick of time. Hasty arrests and the consequent discharges of culprits are not only calculated to cause distrust in the minds of the public but also to encourage the culprits to continue their nefarious practice with comparative safety. In cases in which there is ample evidence to arrest the culprit while the stolen pro-

perty is still not recovered, it would be sometimes advantageous to play the eaves-dropper when the culprit is locked up with other under-trial prisoners. Generally the prisoners get very communicative with each other—more so when several prisoners concerned in the same case are kept in the same cell.

An incident which occurred in Bimlipatam Town in the year 1895 may be interesting to my readers as it illustrates the necessity of avoiding hasty arrests and of benefiting by reports of the conversation of under-trial prisoners. It was brought to my notice that a woman was in the habit of smuggling opium for a long time and many attempts were made to bring her to book without avail. She kept a cigar shop which was but a stone's throw from the Police Station. She was a stalwart sturdy woman of a loose character. She was kept by a Moham-medan who assisted her in this illicit trade. Several times her house was searched both by Police and Salt Officers

without avail. This encouraged the woman. She continued her game for a long time. She used to make small packets of opium, keep them concealed in her petty jacket and sell them to her customers. As this woman was committing this offence under the very nose of the Police, it was talked freely that some of the Policemen were in hand and glove with her. The opium merchant of the place bitterly complained to me about the conduct of my staff and I resolved to put a stop to this illicit trade of opium. I made for some time confidential enquiries as to the place where she was likely to conceal the opium. My information was that she was in possession of a large quantity of the stuff. My enquiries made independently of my staff resulted in discovering an informant who gave me very singular information as to the *modus operandi* of this woman. She had a very large quantity of opium concealed in her premises and only a small quantity she kept concealed in some nook or corner of the

house not easily discoverable. She buried it somewhere in her compound and it was only when it rained she would dig up the bundle of opium and take it inside her house. He advised me to search her house on the day following a good shower. I waited for some time without divulging this information to any of my staff lest by some act of indiscretion they should divulge this information to others. I was anxiously awaiting a shower of rain. At last one day the sky was overcast with dark clouds which presaged heavy rain, and that night we had a very heavy shower. I resolved to search her house on the following morning. I interviewed the local Magistrate and informing him of the information I had received, I requested him to accompany me to the house of the woman to be present at the search. In the morning we searched her house with the result that a big bundle containing opium was found in her house. It bore traces of its having been dug up recently. This surprised the Magistrate as well

as my own staff. All this looked very strange to the Sub-Magistrate who had very curious notions of the Police methods of work. He congratulated me on this excellent find and went away. A few minutes afterwards one of my Policemen informed me that the Sub-Magistrate was inspecting the local opium shop to ascertain if any of his stock was given to the Police to foist it on this woman. I was greatly annoyed at his conduct and hastened to the shop to watch the Magistrate's proceedings. To the great discomfiture of the Magistrate he found that the stock was all correct and that the opium cakes I had seized with the woman were entirely of a different stock. This woman was charged under the Opium Act and placed before the same Magistrate who posted the case for hearing in Camp. The prisoner was taken to N. G. R. Puram station. It was Sunday. Another under-trial prisoner concerned in a theft case was also taken to the same station. There was only one lock-up in the station.

So the male prisoner was kept in the cell and the female prisoner was kept outside in the hall. As I had no quarters elsewhere I camped in the Police station building which consisted of a hall and a lock-up. Two of my friends who happened to go to the place were with me during the night. We had our beds spread on the floor of the hall, the woman prisoner sitting in a corner. One of my friends remarked that there would be a terrible tragedy if the woman took the swords from the rack on the wall and stabbed me while I was asleep, because the woman was known to be a veritable devil. My friends suggested that the woman might be made to sit outside the station building in charge of a Police guard. I laughed at this joke and to make my friends more uneasy about my safety I ordered the sentry to be in the verandah out of our sight. I went to sleep but my friend awoke me gently and motioned to me that the woman was moving towards the swords. I beckoned

to my friend not to disturb her. I intended to catch her red-handed. But we were mistaken. She stealthily approached the lock-up gate where the prisoner was sitting up. Both of them talked in whispers. We could only catch some words from which we guessed that she asked him not to tell us anything. After speaking to the prisoner the woman stole back to her seat. I at once knew that they were previously acquainted with each other and the woman wanted him not to reveal something. This roused my curiosity. I examined the prisoner as to the conversation he had with the woman and it was not long before I learnt that he had committed a crime some months back and sold the property to this woman and her sister. She begged him not to reveal this matter. This was revelation to me. The crime in question was committed some ten months back and it was reported as undetectable. We had not the remotest idea that the man was the culprit and the woman was a receiver of stolen

property. I lost no time in going back to Bimlipatam on the following morning. I searched the woman's house and the result was that a portion of the stolen property was found concealed in the box of the woman's sister. Both the thief and the receiver had their merited punishment.

Now we come to the searches of houses for the recovery of stolen property. A great deal has already been said about the conduct of the searches. Stolen property is generally buried in some nook or corner of the house. It is usually not kept in boxes. You must make a thorough examination of all suspicious looking places in the house. Some bury the property underneath the fireplace. Some conceal it in grain stored in pots. Some conceal the property in the lofts. Every culprit will have his own selection of the place of concealment. It is a most difficult task to find out the place of concealment without great skill, perseverance and patience on the part of the Police.

One gets disgusted at the time it takes to search a house carefully. In the majority of cases, the searches are made very unsatisfactorily, because the Police Officers search the house not with the hope of recovering the stolen property but to satisfy the requirements of investigation and to avoid censure at the hands of superior officers for not doing so. Such perfunctory work is always attended with disappointment and indifferent results. Search the house with the full determination to find the property in the house and never get discouraged under any failure. If a careless search is made and the place of concealment of stolen property is not found, the culprit will have the greatest advantage afterwards. If in the second search by another officer the property is recovered, the first unsuccessful search will be a formidable defence for the culprit who will certainly plead that the subsequent recovery of the property is a concoction on the part of the Police. When a house is searched, it is always

good to study the countenance of the owner of the house. One should understand the value of looks, of expressions and other small things and know that there are signs to be observed in the human face which are more or less an infallible index to the mind and from which pretty accurate inferences may be drawn. Carefully note where he often directs his eyes. If the property is concealed in the house, the house-owner by some impulse or other generally looks towards the place of concealment to see perhaps if any one has noticed it. In one case, I was conducting the search of a house in Vizianagram in connection with a burglary. The house consists of a big room with a front verandah. My S. H. O. was searching the house and I sat in front of the house watching carefully the looks of the house-owner. I saw him several times directing his eyes towards the front pial, a big one in the verandah. It roused my suspicions and I decided to satisfy my curiosity by getting the whole pial dug

out. My men dug a portion of it, when to our great surprise, we found traces of recent digging. When the pial was dug to the depth of one yard, a tin case was found. When opened, it was found to contain gold jewels worth about Rs. 700. I was surprised at this good luck. The property was subsequently identified as property stolen in a burglary of Vizagapatam town.

Of course such things are very rare. I give you this instance, so that you may work in all directions and in every possible way to recover the stolen property. Every case has its own difficulties and peculiarities and no hard and fast rules can be laid down in this respect. Task your ingenuity and make the best use of all that you have gained by reading and experience. Work hard, and fortune will favour the brave.

CHAPTER XIII.

CONCLUSION.

I HAVE in the preceding chapters set forth my varied experience ranging over a service of 14 years in the Police Department, and it is for others to say whether it is interesting and instructive. As I have already explained in the introduction, this little pamphlet is but a reproduction of a lecture intended only for the Police students and delivered with a view to place before them the hints and clues which can be gathered from the same for the edification of the future Police generation. If the aim has been attained, I have been amply rewarded. Another object that I have in view is to place before the public the difficulties which the Police Officers have to contend against; how in spite of their determined efforts and steady perseverance in a noble cause, they are ungenerously condemned and abused; how, for the least technical flaws

of omission or commission, the Magistracy and the Judiciary pass unmerciful strictures and comments on their work; and how, for these and other causes, a Police Officer has to be over-careful and over-circumspect and discreet in all his daily official dealings. In a majority of cases, there is little or no sympathy from the village heads or villagers—on the other hand, active and strenuous opposition has to be combated.

In attempting to do this, I have only placed before my readers the facts of a few of the cases handled by me during my service, and the ways and means adopted by me towards the detection of crimes. In the course of a lecture of the kind I was engaged upon, it has not been possible, consistent with brevity and with the limited time at my disposal, to refer to all the important cases I had to deal with, and consequently all I have done is to refer to one or two instances under each head of crime and to the vital points to which a Police Officer must necessarily

pay strict attention in all his daily transactions.

In conclusion, I must observe that of late several books have been written on Police experiences, but as I find that my pamphlet is on a different line, I venture to place the same before the readers.

